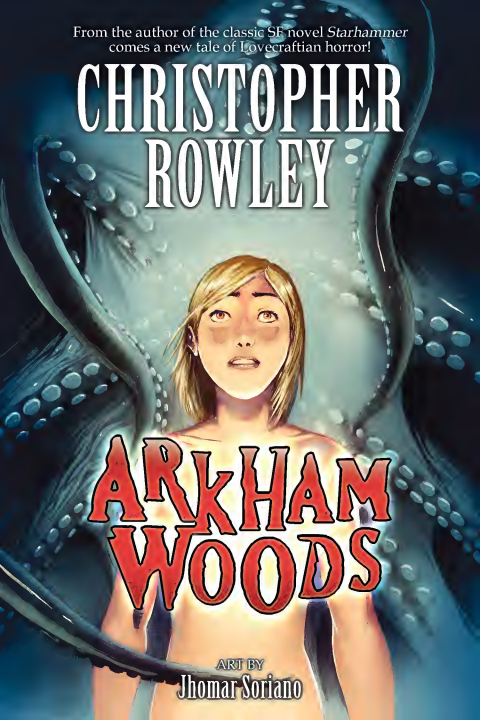


From the author of the classic SF novel *Starhammer*
comes a new tale of Lovecraftian horror!

CHRISTOPHER ROWLEY

ARKHAM WOODS

ART BY
Jhomar Soriano

ARKHAM WOODS

STORY BY

CHRISTOPHER ROWLEY

ART BY

Jhomar Soriano

writer	**Christopher Rowley**
artist	**Jhomar Soriano**
toning	**Rhea Silvan**
lettering	**Nicky Lim**
layout	**Adam Arnold**
book design	**Nicky Lim**
story editor	**Jason DeAngelis**
production manager	**Adam Arnold**

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

© 2009 Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.

Visit us online at www.gomanga.com.

ISBN: 978-1-934876-36-7

Printed in Canada

First Printing: February 2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 THE DOOR INTO NIGHTMARES 5

2 SWASTIKA STONES 28

3 MR. TENTACLES IS BACK! 63

4 THE DEVIL YOU DON'T 73

5 BITING THE BRAIN 102

6 AZATHOTH'S FLUTE 146

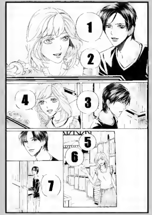
7 DIGGING THE NODE 173

8 THE LORD OF THE EARTH 186

ARKHAM
WOODS

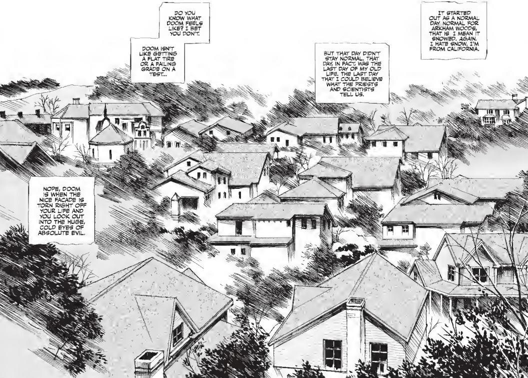
READING DIRECTIONS

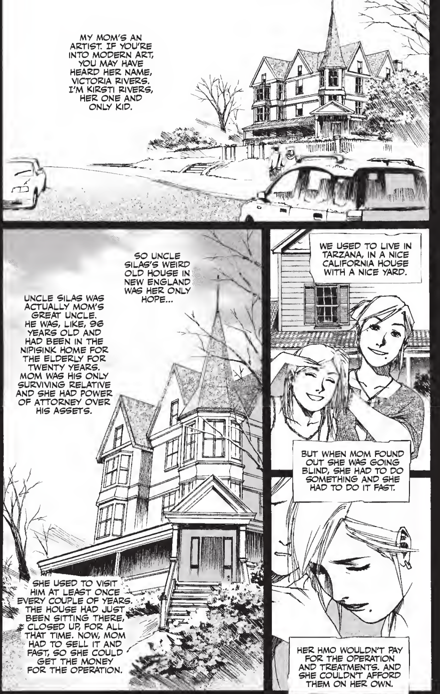
This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

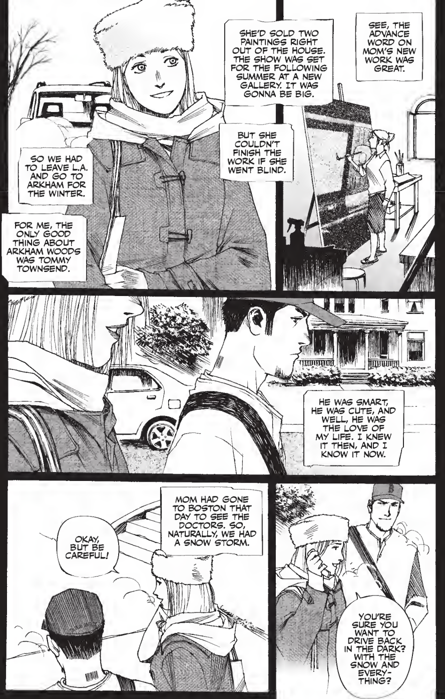


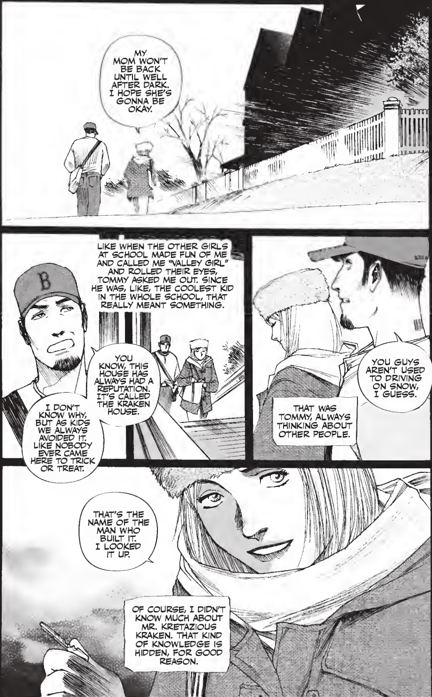
1

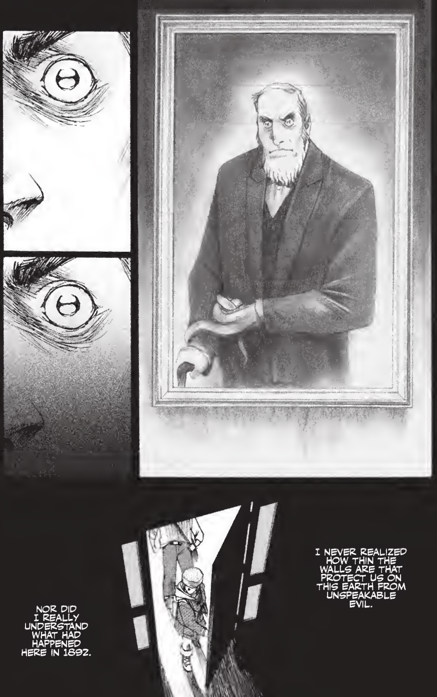
THE DOOR INTO NIGHTMARES

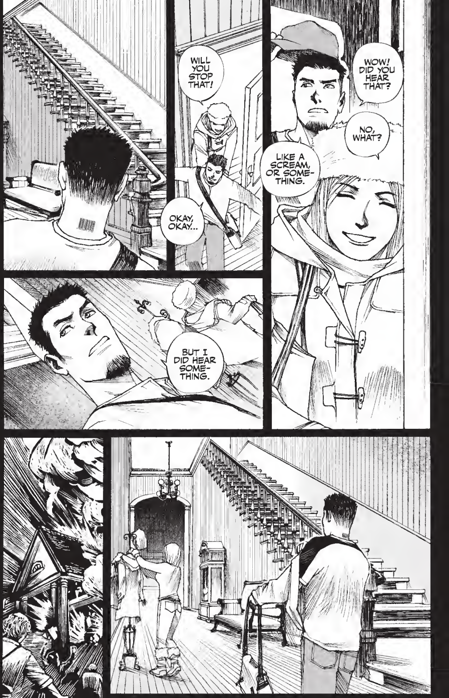

IT STARTED OUT AS A NORMAL DAY NORMAL FOR ARKHAM WOODS, THAT IS I MEAN IT SNOWED. AGAIN. I HATE SNOW. I'M FROM CALIFORNIA.
BUT THAT DAY DIDN'T STAY NORMAL. THAT DAY, IN FACT, WAS THE LAST DAY OF MY OLD LIFE. THE LAST DAY THAT I COULD BELIEVE WHAT THE PRIESTS AND SCIENTISTS TELL US.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DOOM FEELS LIKE? I BET YOU DON'T.
DOOM ISN'T LIKE GETTING A FLAT TIRE OR A FAILING GRADE ON A TEST...
NOPE, DOOM IS WHEN THE NICE FACADE IS TORN RIGHT OFF YOUR LIFE AND YOU LOOK OUT INTO THE HUGE, COLD EYES OF ABSOLUTE EVIL.

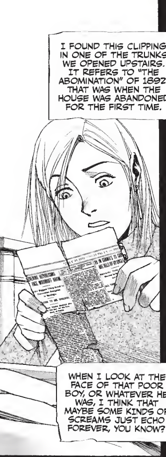

MY MOM'S AN ARTIST. IF YOU'RE INTO MODERN ART, YOU MAY HAVE HEARD HER NAME, VICTORIA RIVERS. I'M KIRSTI RIVERS, HER ONE AND ONLY KID.
UNCLE SILAS WAS ACTUALLY MOM'S GREAT UNCLE. HE WAS, LIKE, 96 YEARS OLD AND HAD BEEN IN THE NIPISINK HOME FOR THE ELDERLY FOR TWENTY YEARS. MOM WAS HIS ONLY SURVIVING RELATIVE AND SHE HAD POWER OF ATTORNEY OVER HIS ASSETS.
SO UNCLE SILAS'S WEIRD OLD HOUSE IN NEW ENGLAND WAS HER ONLY HOPE...
SHE USED TO VISIT HIM AT LEAST ONCE EVERY COUPLE OF YEARS. THE HOUSE HAD JUST BEEN SITTING THERE, CLOSED UP, FOR ALL THAT TIME. NOW, MOM HAD TO SELL IT AND FAST, SO SHE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR THE OPERATION.
WE USED TO LIVE IN TARZANA, IN A NICE CALIFORNIA HOUSE WITH A NICE YARD.
BUT WHEN MOM FOUND OUT SHE WAS GOING BLIND, SHE HAD TO DO SOMETHING AND SHE HAD TO DO IT FAST.
HER HMO WOULDN'T PAY FOR THE OPERATION AND TREATMENTS. AND SHE COULDN'T AFFORD THEM ON HER OWN.

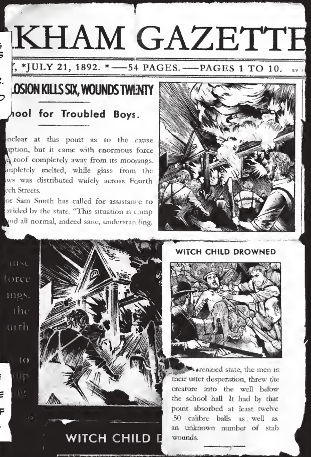

SEE, THE ADVANCE WORD ON MOM'S NEW WORK WAS GREAT.
SHE'D SOLD TWO PAINTINGS RIGHT OUT OF THE HOUSE. THE SHOW WAS SET FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMMER AT A NEW GALLERY. IT WAS GONNA BE BIG.
BUT SHE COULDN'T FINISH THE WORK IF SHE WENT BLIND.
SO WE HAD TO LEAVE L.A. AND GO TO ARKHAM FOR THE WINTER.
FOR ME, THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT ARKHAM WOODS WAS TOMMY TOWNSEND.
HE WAS SMART, HE WAS CUTE, AND WELL, HE WAS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE. I KNEW IT THEN, AND I KNOW IT NOW.
MOM HAD GONE TO BOSTON THAT DAY TO SEE THE DOCTORS. SO, NATURALLY, WE HAD A SNOW STORM.
OKAY, BUT BE CAREFUL!
YOU'RE SURE YOU WANT TO DRIVE BACK IN THE DARK? WITH THE SNOW AND EVERYTHING?


MY MOM WON'T BE BACK UNTIL WELL AFTER DARK. I HOPE SHE'S GONNA BE OKAY.
LIKE WHEN THE OTHER GIRLS AT SCHOOL MADE FUN OF ME AND CALLED ME "VALLEY GIRL" AND ROLLED THEIR EYES, TOMMY ASKED ME OUT. SINCE HE WAS, LIKE, THE COOLEST KID IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL, THAT REALLY MEANT SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW, THIS HOUSE HAS ALWAYS HAD A REPUTATION. IT'S CALLED THE KRAKEN HOUSE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT AS KIDS WE ALWAYS AVOIDED IT. LIKE NOBODY EVER CAME HERE TO TRICK OR TREAT.
YOU GUYS AREN'T USED TO DRIVING ON SNOW, I GUESS.
THAT WAS TOMMY, ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO BUILT IT. I LOOKED IT UP.
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MR. KRETAZIOUS KRAKEN. THAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE IS HIDDEN, FOR GOOD REASON.


I NEVER REALIZED HOW THIN THE WALLS ARE THAT PROTECT US ON THIS EARTH FROM UNSPEAKABLE EVIL.
NOR DID I REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED HERE IN 1892.


WILL YOU STOP THAT!
OKAY, OKAY...
WOW! DID YOU HEAR THAT?
NO, WHAT?
LIKE A SCREAM, OR SOMETHING.
BUT I DID HEAR SOMETHING.


I FOUND THIS CLIPPING IN ONE OF THE TRUNKS WE OPENED UPSTAIRS. IT REFERS TO "THE ABOMINATION" OF 1892. THAT WAS WHEN THE HOUSE WAS ABANDONED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WHEN I LOOK AT THE FACE OF THAT POOR BOY, OR WHATEVER HE WAS, I THINK THAT MAYBE SOME KINDS OF SCREAMS JUST ECHO FOREVER, YOU KNOW?



KHAM GAZETT

Y, *JULY 21, 1892. *—54 PAGES.—PAGES 1 TO 10.

LOSION KILLS SIX, WOUNDS TWENTY

hool for Troubled Boys.

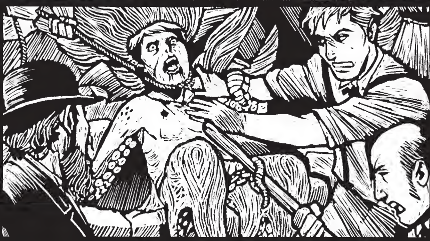
nclear at this point as to the cause
ption, but it came with enormous force
roof completely away from its moorings.
mpletely melted, while glass from the
ws was distributed widely across Fourth
ch Streets.

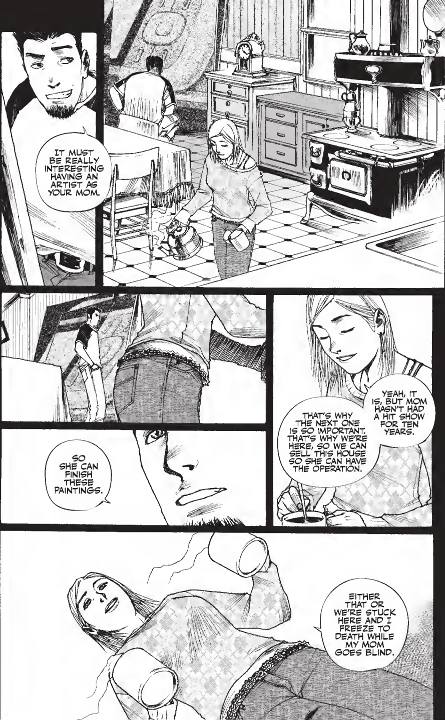
or Sam Smith has called for assistance to
ovided by the state. "This situation is comp
nd all normal, indeed sane, understanding.

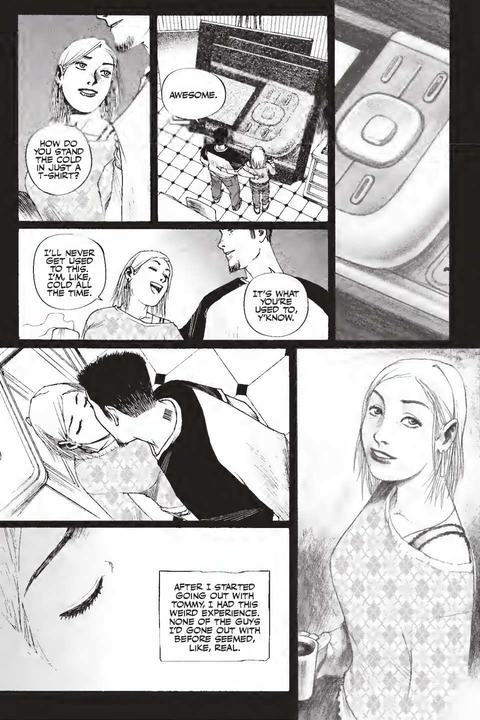
WITCH CHILD DROWNED

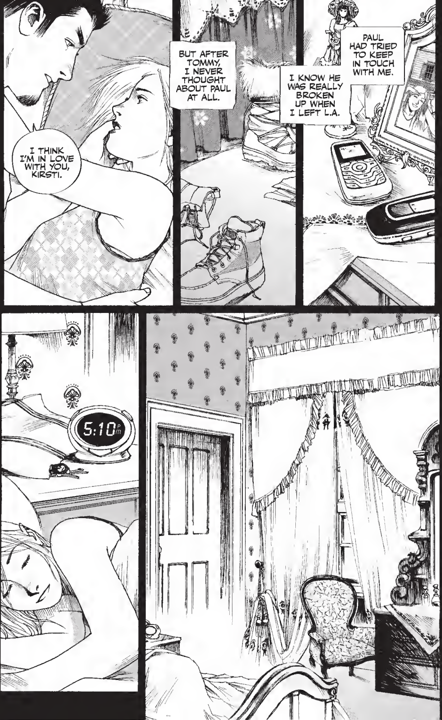
renzied state, the men in their utter desperation, threw the creature into the well below the school hall It had by that point absorbed at least twelve .50 calibre balls as well as an unknown number of stab wounds.

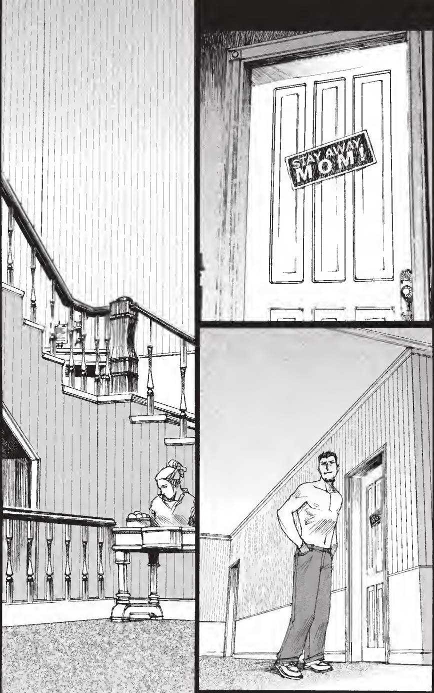
WITCH CHILD D

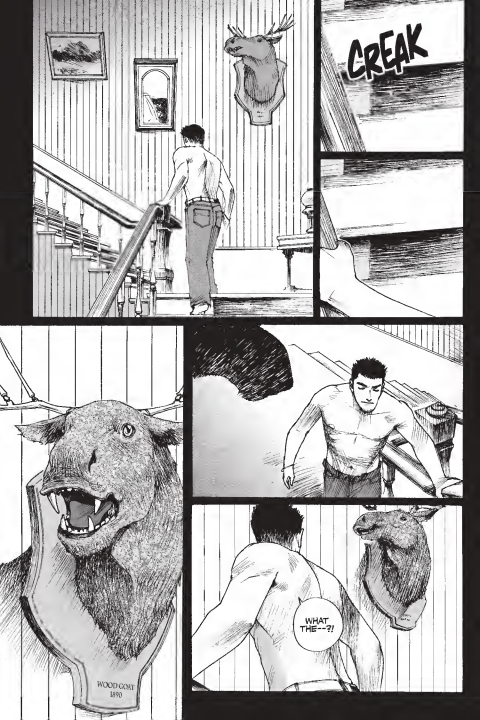


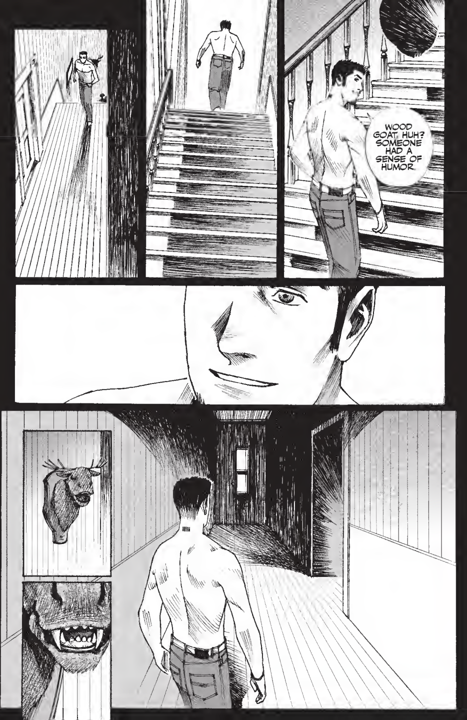

IT MUST BE REALLY INTERESTING HAVING AN ARTIST AS YOUR MOM.
YEAH, IT IS, BUT MOM HASN'T HAD A HIT SHOW FOR TEN YEARS.
THAT'S WHY THE NEXT ONE IS SO IMPORTANT. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, SO WE CAN SELL THIS HOUSE SO SHE CAN HAVE THE OPERATION.
SO SHE CAN FINISH THESE PAINTINGS.
EITHER THAT OR WE'RE STUCK HERE AND I FREEZE TO DEATH WHILE MY MOM GOES BLIND.

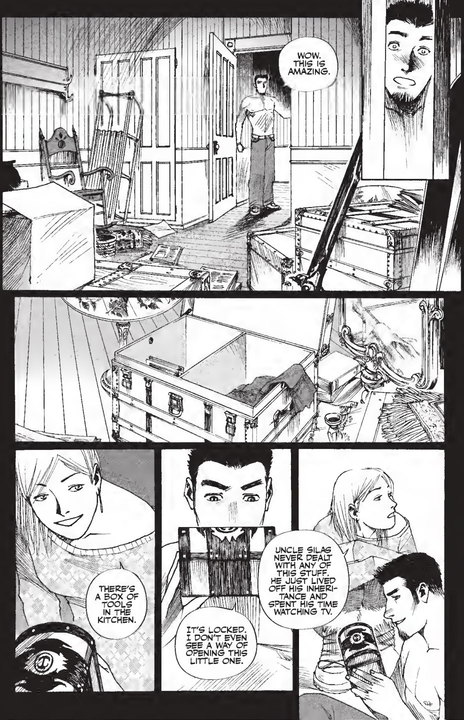

HOW DO YOU STAND THE COLD IN JUST A T-SHIRT?
AWESOME.
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THIS. I'M, LIKE, COLD ALL THE TIME.
IT'S WHAT YOU'RE USED TO, Y'KNOW.
AFTER I STARTED GOING OUT WITH TOMMY, I HAD THIS WEIRD EXPERIENCE. NONE OF THE GUYS I'D GONE OUT WITH BEFORE SEEMED, LIKE, REAL.

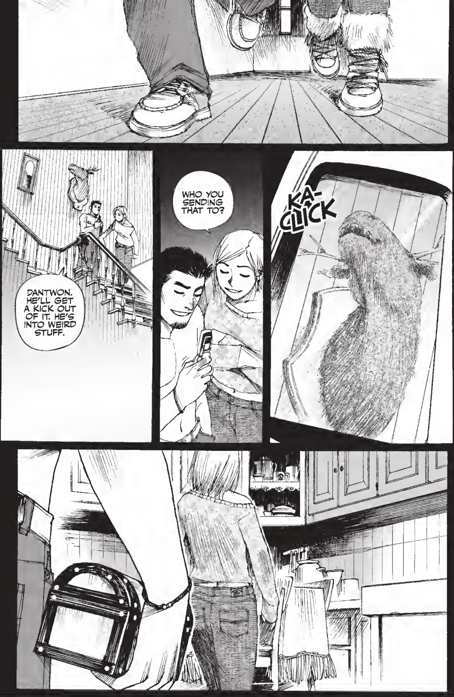

I THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, KIRSTI.
BUT AFTER TOMMY, I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT PAUL AT ALL.
PAUL HAD TRIED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME.
I KNOW HE WAS REALLY BROKEN UP WHEN I LEFT L.A.
5:10 pm

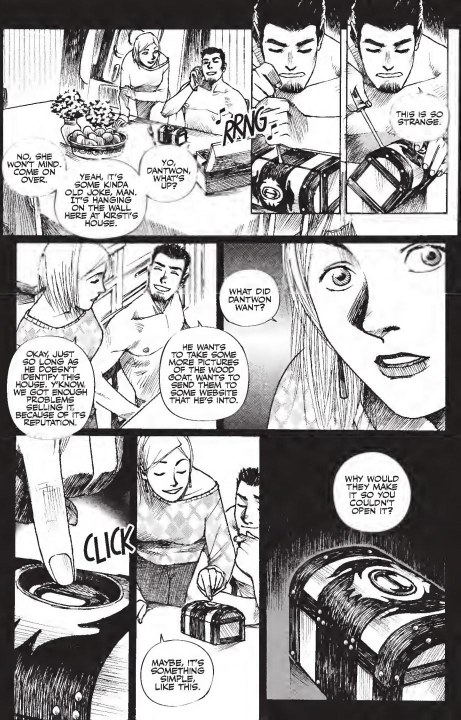

STAY AWAY, MOM!

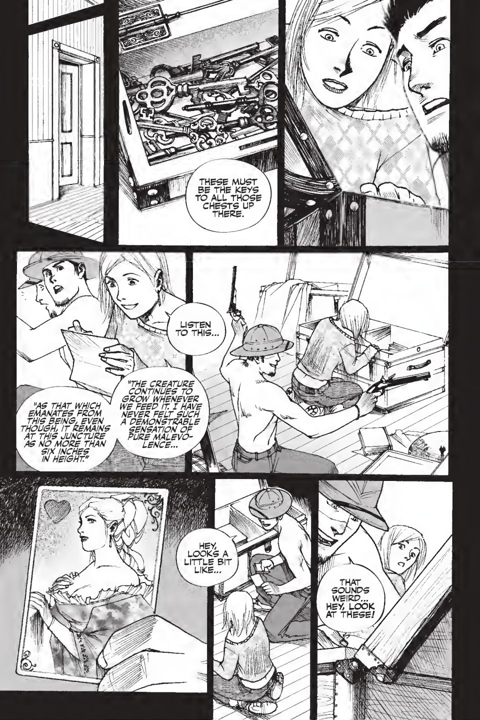

CREAK
WOOD GOAT
1890
WHAT THE--?!

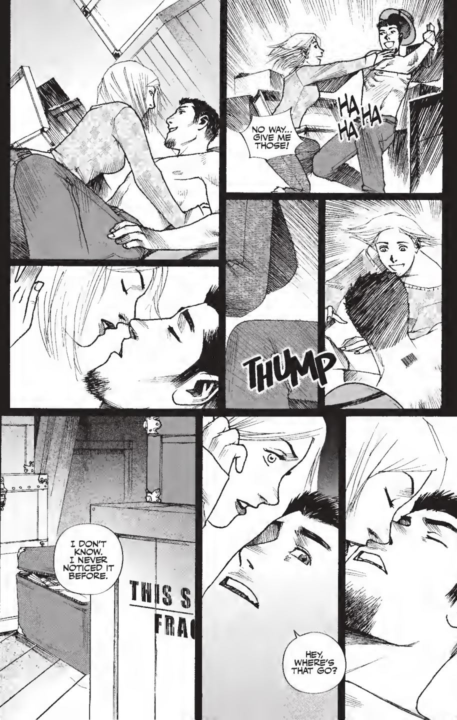

WOOD GOAT, HUH? SOMEONE HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR.

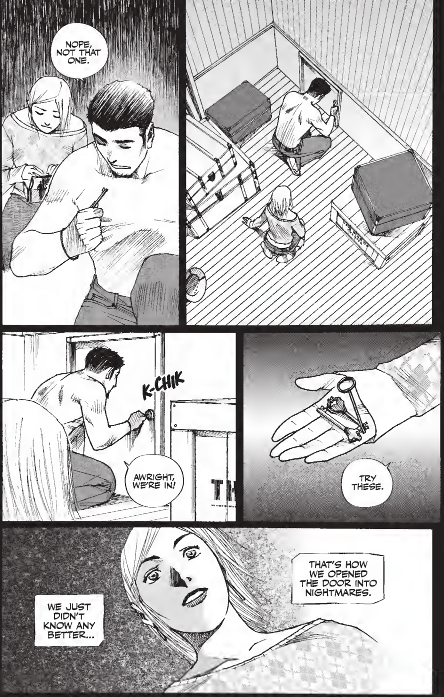

WOW. THIS IS AMAZING.
THERE'S A BOX OF TOOLS IN THE KITCHEN.
IT'S LOCKED. I DON'T EVEN SEE A WAY OF OPENING THIS LITTLE ONE.
UNCLE SILAS NEVER DEALT WITH ANY OF THIS STUFF. HE JUST LIVED OFF HIS INHERITANCE AND SPENT HIS TIME WATCHING TV.

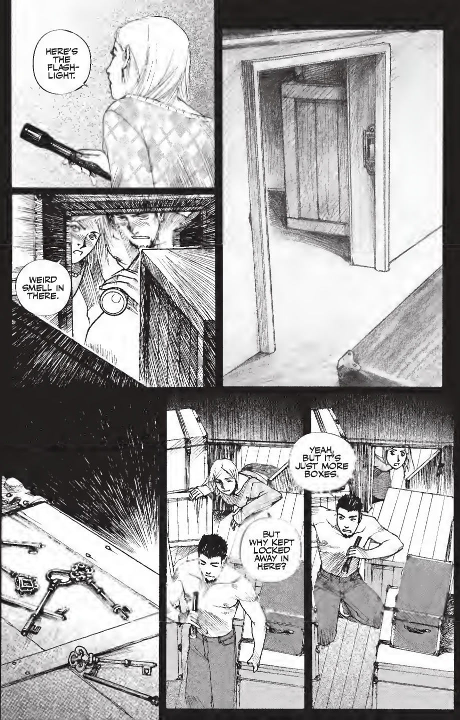

WHO YOU SENDING THAT TO?
DANTWON. HE'LL GET A KICK OUT OF IT. HE'S INTO WEIRD STUFF.
KA-CLICK

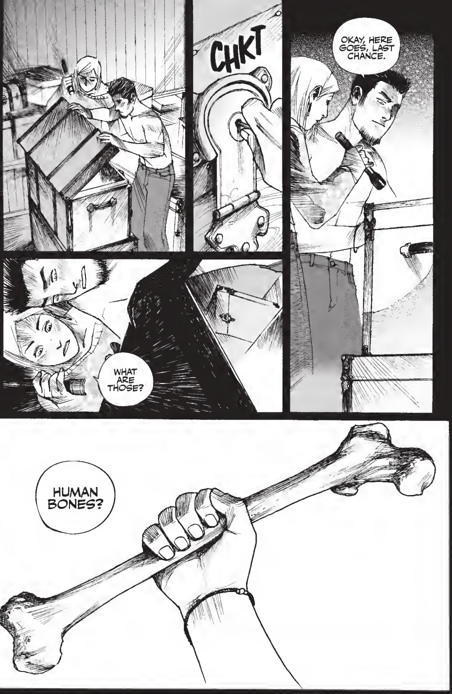

THIS IS SO STRANGE.
RRNG
YO, DANTWON, WHAT'S UP?
YEAH, IT'S SOME KINDA OLD JOKE, MAN. IT'S HANGING ON THE WALL HERE AT KIRSTI'S HOUSE.
NO, SHE WON'T MIND. COME ON OVER.
OKAY, JUST SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T IDENTIFY THIS HOUSE. Y'KNOW, WE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS SELLING IT BECAUSE OF ITS REPUTATION.
HE WANTS TO TAKE SOME MORE PICTURES OF THE WOOD GOAT. WANTS TO SEND THEM TO SOME WEBSITE THAT HE'S INTO.
WHAT DID DANTWON WANT?
CLICK
MAYBE, IT'S SOMETHING SIMPLE, LIKE THIS.
WHY WOULD THEY MAKE IT SO YOU COULDN'T OPEN IT?


THESE MUST BE THE KEYS TO ALL THOSE CHESTS UP THERE.
LISTEN TO THIS...
"THE CREATURE CONTINUES TO GROW WHENEVER WE FEED IT. I HAVE NEVER FELT SUCH A DEMONSTRABLE SENSATION OF PURE MALEVOLENCE...
"AS THAT WHICH EMANATES FROM THIS BEING, EVEN THOUGH, IT REMAINS AT THIS JUNCTURE AS NO MORE THAN SIX INCHES IN HEIGHT."
HEY, LOOKS A LITTLE BIT LIKE...
THAT SOUNDS WEIRD... HEY, LOOK AT THESE!


NO WAY... GIVE ME THOSE!
HA HA HA HA
THUMP
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE.
THIS S
FRAG
HEY, WHERE'S THAT GO?

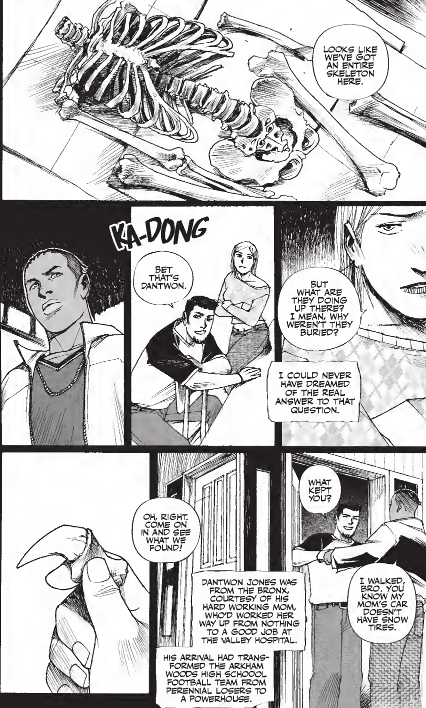

NOPE, NOT THAT ONE.
K-CHIK
AWRIGHT, WE'RE IN!
TRY THESE.
THAT'S HOW WE OPENED THE DOOR INTO NIGHTMARES.
WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER...

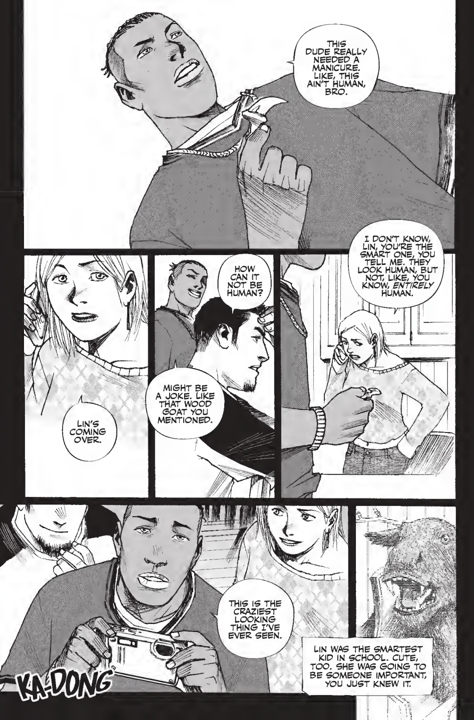

HERE'S THE FLASHLIGHT.
WEIRD SMELL IN THERE.
BUT WHY KEPT LOCKED AWAY IN HERE?
YEAH, BUT IT'S JUST MORE BOXES.

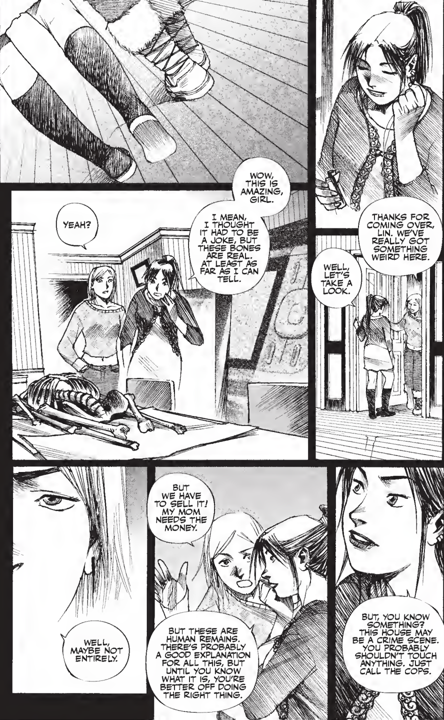

CHKT
OKAY, HERE GOES, LAST CHANCE.
WHAT ARE THOSE?
HUMAN BONES?

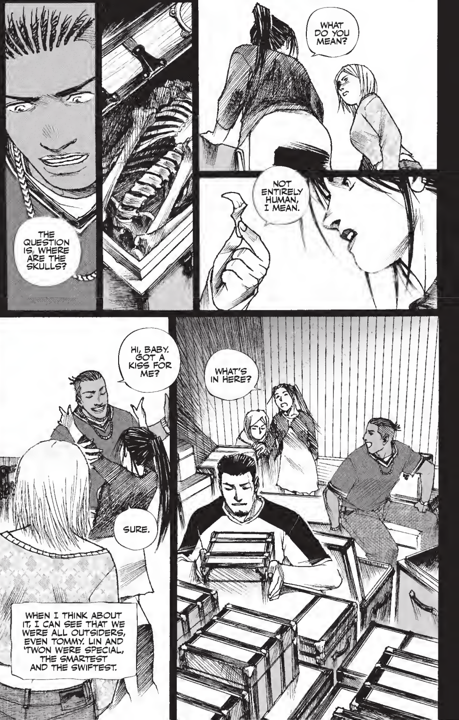
2

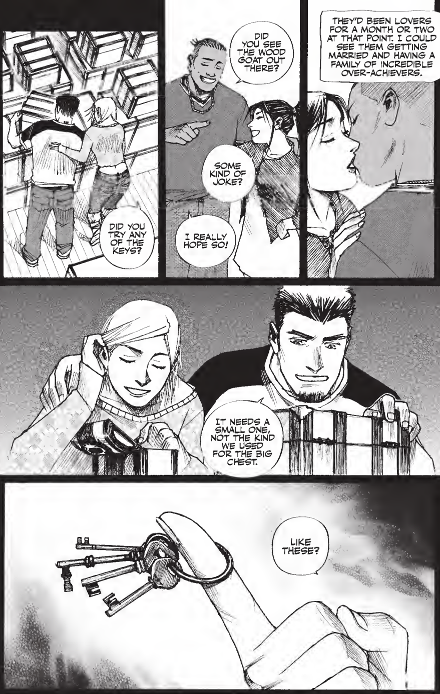
SWASTIKA STONES

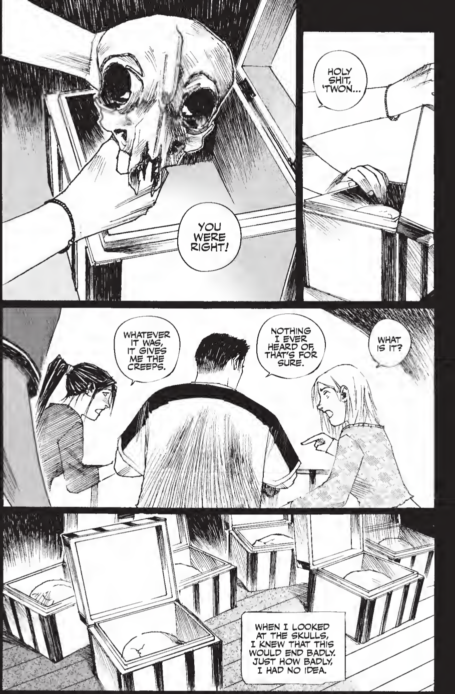

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT AN ENTIRE SKELETON HERE.
KA-DONG
BET THAT'S DANTWON.
BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING UP THERE? I MEAN, WHY WEREN'T THEY BURIED?
I COULD NEVER HAVE DREAMED OF THE REAL ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.
OH, RIGHT. COME ON IN AND SEE WHAT WE FOUND!
WHAT KEPT YOU?
I WALKED, BRO. YOU KNOW MY MOM'S CAR DOESN'T HAVE SNOW TIRES.
DANTWON JONES WAS FROM THE BRONX, COURTESY OF HIS HARD WORKING MOM, WHO'D WORKED HER WAY UP FROM NOTHING TO A GOOD JOB AT THE VALLEY HOSPITAL.
HIS ARRIVAL HAD TRANSFORMED THE ARKHAM WOODS HIGH SCHOOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FROM PERENNIAL LOSERS TO A POWERHOUSE.

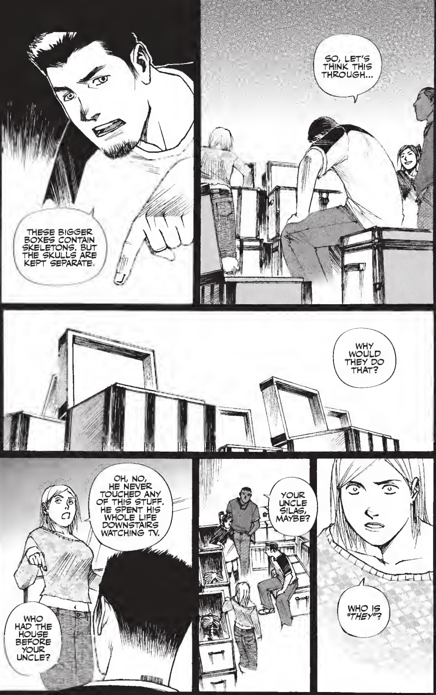

THIS DUDE REALLY NEEDED A MANICURE. LIKE, THIS AIN'T HUMAN, BRO.
LIN'S COMING OVER.
HOW CAN IT NOT BE HUMAN?
MIGHT BE A JOKE. LIKE THAT WOOD GOAT YOU MENTIONED.
I DON'T KNOW, LIN, YOU'RE THE SMART ONE, YOU TELL ME. THEY LOOK HUMAN, BUT NOT, LIKE, YOU KNOW, *ENTIRELY* HUMAN.
THIS IS THE CRAZIEST LOOKING THING I'VE EVER SEEN.
KA-DONG
LIN WAS THE SMARTEST KID IN SCHOOL. CUTE, TOO. SHE WAS GOING TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT, YOU JUST KNEW IT.

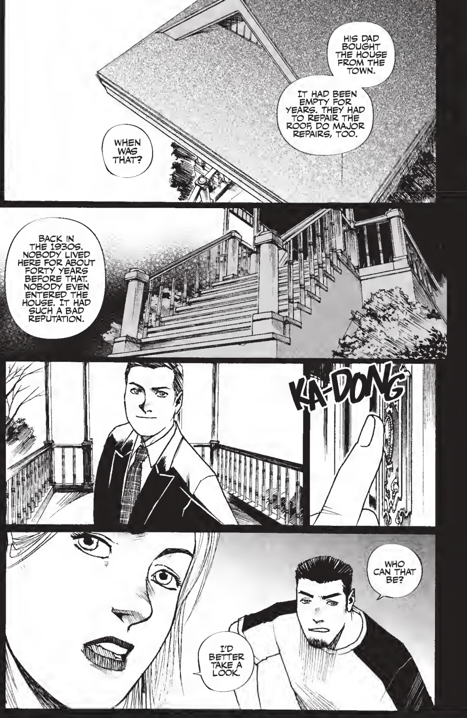

THANKS FOR COMING OVER, LIN. WE'VE REALLY GOT SOMETHING WEIRD HERE.
WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
WOW, THIS IS AMAZING, GIRL.
YEAH?
I MEAN, I THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE A JOKE, BUT THESE BONES ARE REAL. AT LEAST AS FAR AS I CAN TELL.
WELL, MAYBE NOT ENTIRELY.
BUT, YOU KNOW SOMETHING? THIS HOUSE MAY BE A CRIME SCENE. YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING. JUST CALL THE COPS.
BUT WE HAVE TO SELL IT! MY MOM NEEDS THE MONEY.
BUT THESE ARE HUMAN REMAINS. THERE'S PROBABLY A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS, BUT UNTIL YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS, YOU'RE BETTER OFF DOING THE RIGHT THING.

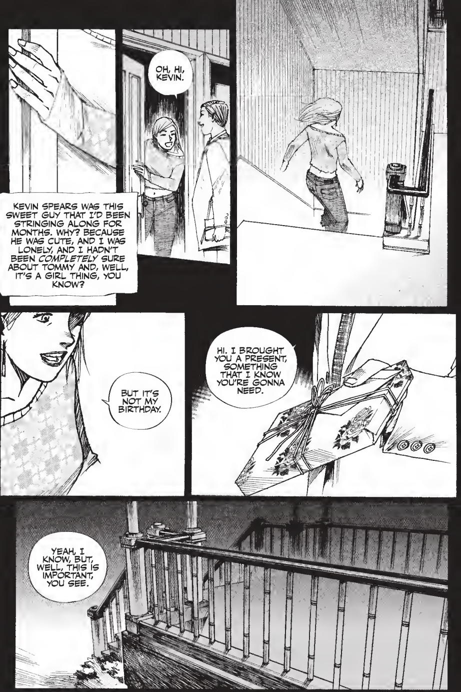

THE QUESTION IS, WHERE ARE THE SKULLS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NOT ENTIRELY HUMAN, I MEAN.
HI, BABY. GOT A KISS FOR ME?
SURE.
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I CAN SEE THAT WE WERE ALL OUTSIDERS, EVEN TOMMY. LIN AND 'TWON WERE SPECIAL, THE SMARTEST AND THE SWIFTEST.
WHAT'S IN HERE?

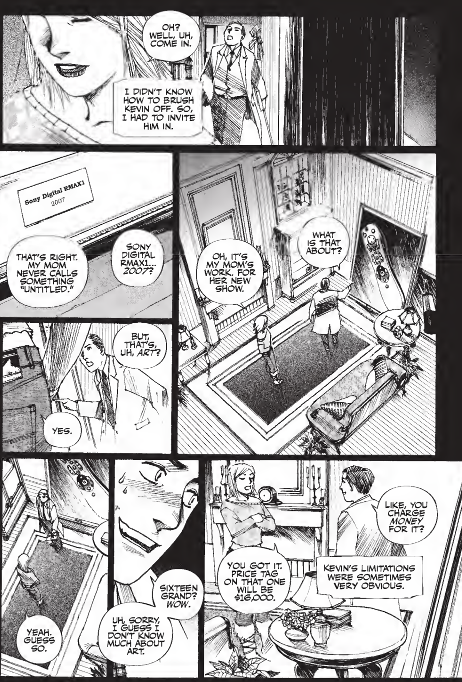

DID YOU TRY ANY OF THE KEYS?
DID YOU SEE THE WOOD GOAT OUT THERE?
SOME KIND OF JOKE?
I REALLY HOPE SO!
THEY'D BEEN LOVERS FOR A MONTH OR TWO AT THAT POINT. I COULD SEE THEM GETTING MARRIED AND HAVING A FAMILY OF INCREDIBLE OVER-ACHIEVERS.
IT NEEDS A SMALL ONE, NOT THE KIND WE USED FOR THE BIG CHEST.
LIKE THESE?

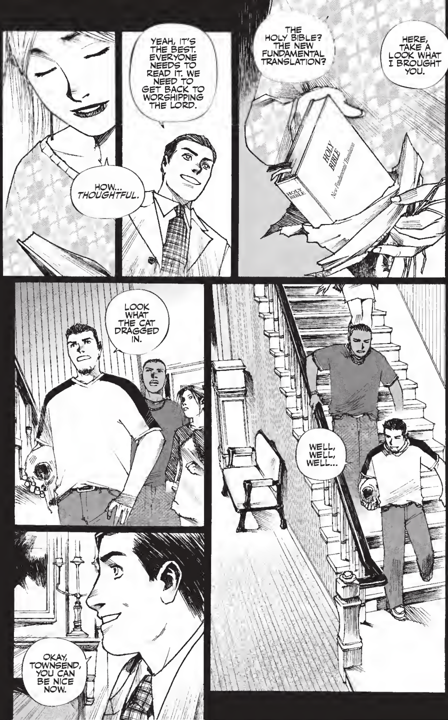

YOU WERE RIGHT!
HOLY SHIT, 'TWON...
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.
NOTHING I EVER HEARD OF, THAT'S FOR SURE.
WHAT IS IT?
WHEN I LOOKED AT THE SKULLS, I KNEW THAT THIS WOULD END BADLY. JUST HOW BADLY, I HAD NO IDEA.

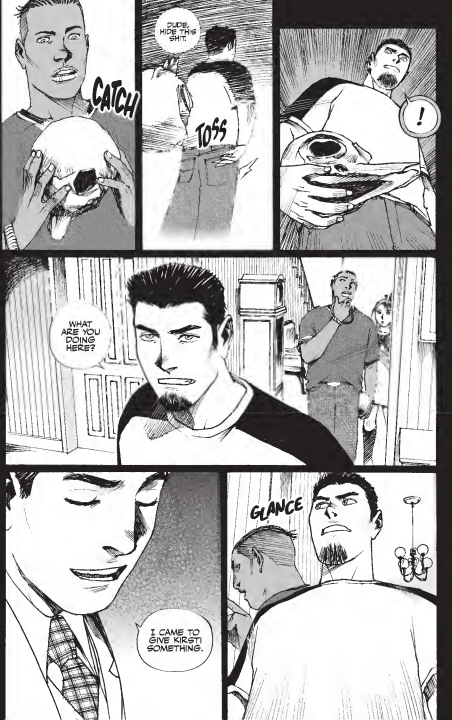

THESE BIGGER BOXES CONTAIN SKELETONS. BUT THE SKULLS ARE KEPT SEPARATE.
SO, LET'S THINK THIS THROUGH...
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
OH, NO, HE NEVER TOUCHED ANY OF THIS STUFF. HE SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE DOWNSTAIRS WATCHING TV.
WHO HAD THE HOUSE BEFORE YOUR UNCLE?
YOUR UNCLE SILAS, MAYBE?
WHO IS *"THEY"*?

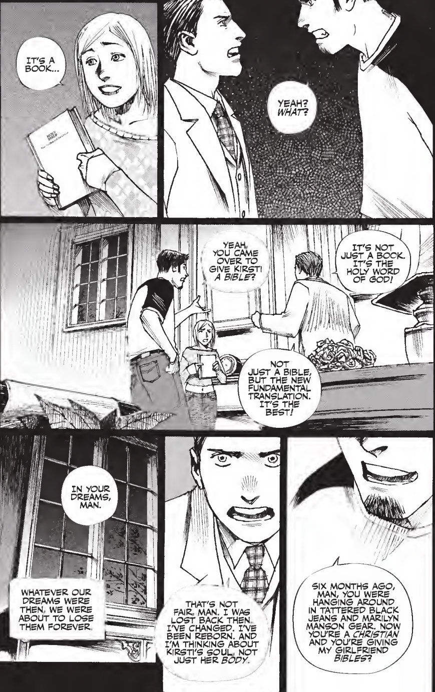

HIS DAD BOUGHT THE HOUSE FROM THE TOWN.
IT HAD BEEN EMPTY FOR YEARS. THEY HAD TO REPAIR THE ROOF, DO MAJOR REPAIRS, TOO.
WHEN WAS THAT?
BACK IN THE 1930S. NOBODY LIVED HERE FOR ABOUT FORTY YEARS BEFORE THAT. NOBODY EVEN ENTERED THE HOUSE. IT HAD SUCH A BAD REPUTATION.
KA-DONG
WHO CAN THAT BE?
I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK.

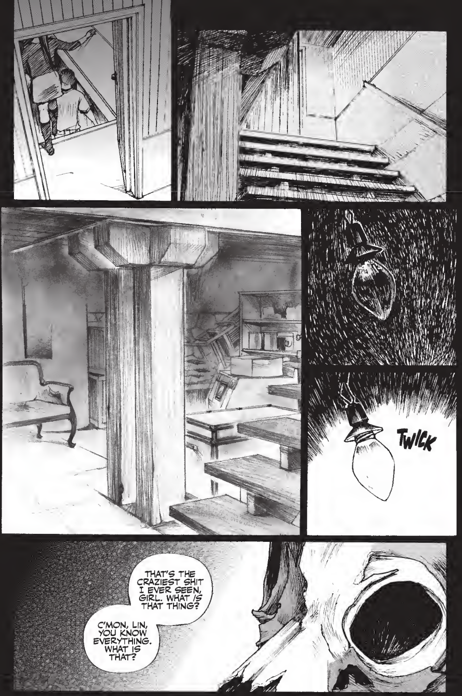

OH, HI, KEVIN.
KEVIN SPEARS WAS THIS SWEET GUY THAT I'D BEEN STRINGING ALONG FOR MONTHS. WHY? BECAUSE HE WAS CUTE, AND I WAS LONELY, AND I HADN'T BEEN *COMPLETELY* SURE ABOUT TOMMY AND, WELL, IT'S A GIRL THING, YOU KNOW?
HI. I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT, SOMETHING THAT I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA NEED.
BUT IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
YEAH, I KNOW, BUT, WELL, THIS IS IMPORTANT, YOU SEE.

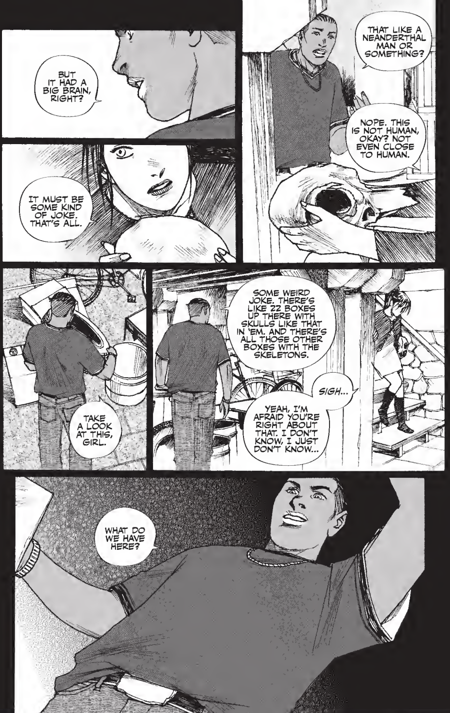

OH? WELL, UH, COME IN.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BRUSH KEVIN OFF. SO, I HAD TO INVITE HIM IN.
WHAT IS THAT ABOUT?
OH, IT'S MY MOM'S WORK. FOR HER NEW SHOW.
Sony Digital RMAX1 2007
SONY DIGITAL RMAX1... *2007*?
THAT'S RIGHT. MY MOM NEVER CALLS SOMETHING "UNTITLED."
BUT, THAT'S, UH, *ART*?
YES.
LIKE, YOU CHARGE *MONEY* FOR IT?
YOU GOT IT. PRICE TAG ON THAT ONE WILL BE $16,000.
KEVIN'S LIMITATIONS WERE SOMETIMES VERY OBVIOUS.
SIXTEEN GRAND? *WOW*.
UH, SORRY, I GUESS I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT ART.
YEAH. GUESS SO.

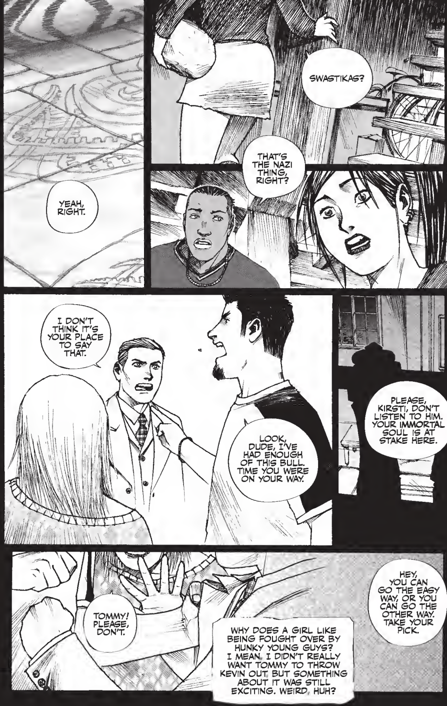

HERE, TAKE A LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT YOU.
THE HOLY BIBLE? THE NEW FUNDAMENTAL TRANSLATION?
HOLY BIBLE
New Fundamental Translation
HOLY BIBLE
YEAH, IT'S THE BEST. EVERYONE NEEDS TO READ IT. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO WORSHIPPING THE LORD.
HOW... *THOUGHTFUL.*
WELL, WELL, WELL...
LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN.
OKAY, TOWNSEND, YOU CAN BE NICE NOW.

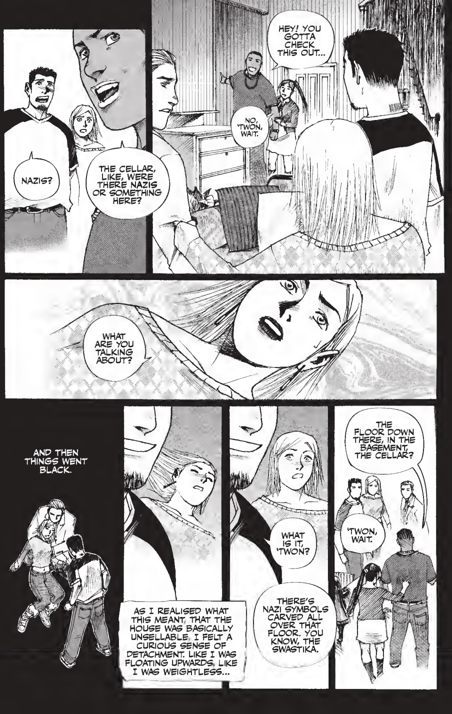

!
DUDE, HIDE THIS SHIT.
TOSS
CATCH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GLANCE
I CAME TO GIVE KIRSTI SOMETHING.

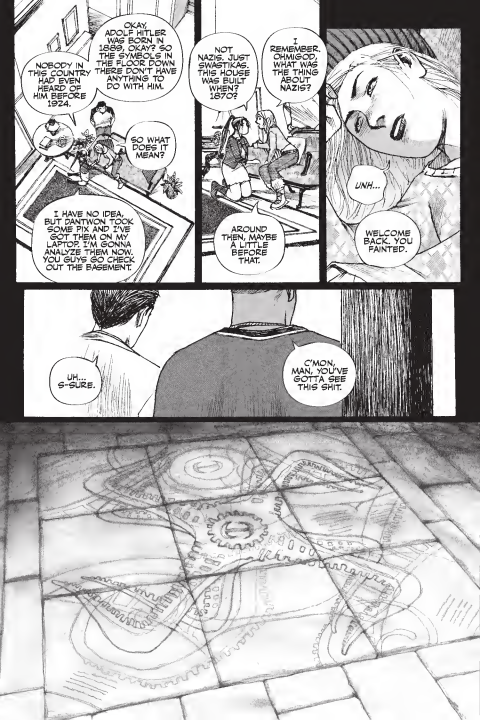

IT'S A BOOK...
HOLY BIBLE
YEAH? *WHAT?*
YEAH, YOU CAME OVER TO GIVE KIRSTI *A BIBLE?*
IT'S NOT JUST A BOOK. IT'S THE HOLY WORD OF GOD!
NOT JUST A BIBLE, BUT THE NEW FUNDAMENTAL TRANSLATION. IT'S THE BEST!
IN YOUR DREAMS, MAN.
WHATEVER OUR DREAMS WERE THEN, WE WERE ABOUT TO LOSE THEM FOREVER.
SIX MONTHS AGO, MAN, YOU WERE HANGING AROUND IN TATTERED BLACK JEANS AND MARILYN MANSON GEAR. NOW YOU'RE A *CHRISTIAN* AND YOU'RE GIVING MY GIRLFRIEND *BIBLES?*
THAT'S NOT FAIR, MAN. I WAS LOST BACK THEN. I'VE CHANGED. I'VE BEEN REBORN. AND I'M THINKING ABOUT KIRSTI'S SOUL, NOT JUST HER *BODY*.

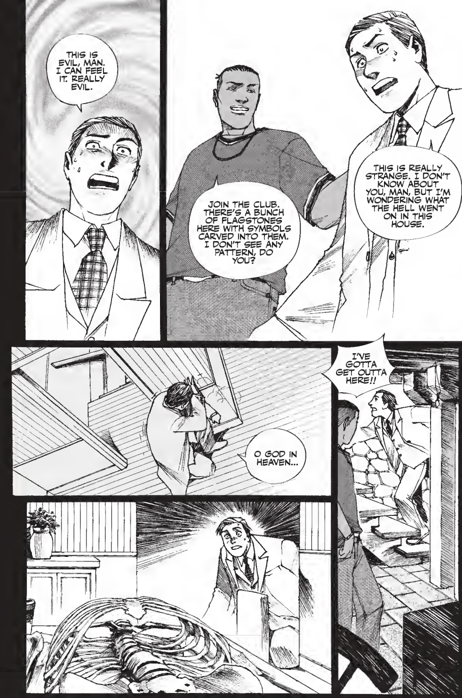

TWICK
THAT'S THE CRAZIEST SHIT I EVER SEEN, GIRL. WHAT *IS* THAT THING?
C'MON, LIN, YOU KNOW EVERYTHING. WHAT IS THAT?

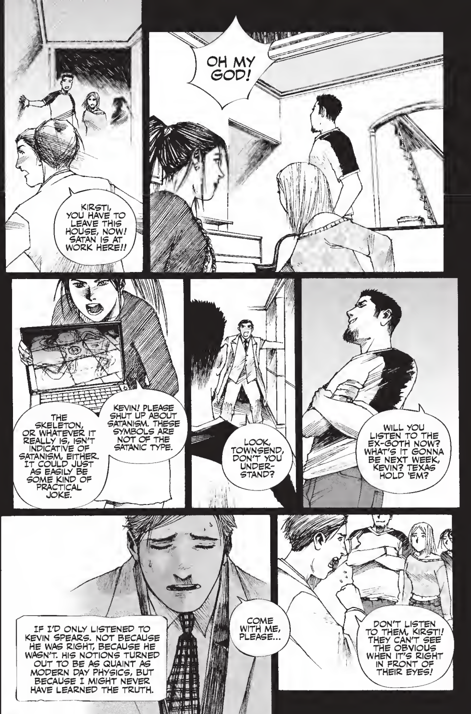

BUT IT HAD A BIG BRAIN, RIGHT?
THAT LIKE A NEANDERTHAL MAN OR SOMETHING?
NOPE. THIS IS NOT HUMAN, OKAY? NOT EVEN CLOSE TO HUMAN.
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF JOKE. THAT'S ALL.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, GIRL.
SOME WEIRD JOKE. THERE'S LIKE 22 BOXES UP THERE WITH SKULLS LIKE THAT IN 'EM. AND THERE'S ALL THOSE OTHER BOXES WITH THE SKELETONS.
SIGH...
YEAH, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT. I DON'T KNOW, I JUST DON'T KNOW...
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

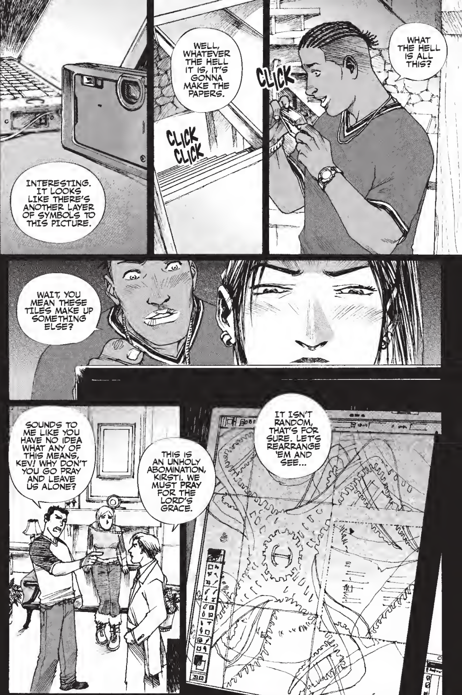

SWASTIKAS?
THAT'S THE NAZI THING, RIGHT?
YEAH, RIGHT.
I DON'T THINK IT'S YOUR PLACE TO SAY THAT.
LOOK, DUDE, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BULL. TIME YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY.
PLEASE, KIRSTI, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL IS AT STAKE HERE.
TOMMY! PLEASE, DON'T.
HEY, YOU CAN GO THE EASY WAY, OR YOU CAN GO THE OTHER WAY. TAKE YOUR PICK.
WHY DOES A GIRL LIKE BEING FOUGHT OVER BY HUNKY YOUNG GUYS? I MEAN, I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TOMMY TO THROW KEVIN OUT, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT IT WAS STILL EXCITING. WEIRD, HUH?

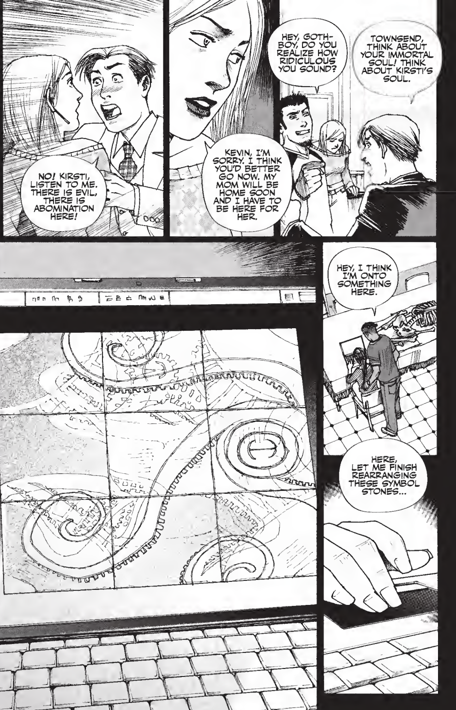

HEY! YOU GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT...
NO, 'TWON, WAIT.
THE CELLAR, LIKE, WERE THERE NAZIS OR SOMETHING HERE?
NAZIS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE FLOOR DOWN THERE, IN THE BASEMENT, THE CELLAR?
'TWON, WAIT.
WHAT IS IT, 'TWON?
THERE'S NAZI SYMBOLS CARVED ALL OVER THAT FLOOR. YOU KNOW, THE SWASTIKA.
AS I REALISED WHAT THIS MEANT, THAT THE HOUSE WAS BASICALLY UNSELLABLE, I FELT A CURIOUS SENSE OF DETACHMENT. LIKE I WAS FLOATING UPWARDS, LIKE I WAS WEIGHTLESS...
AND THEN THINGS WENT BLACK.

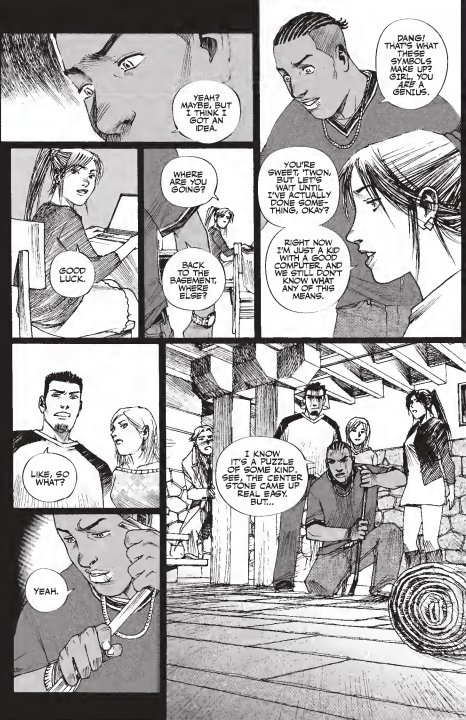

OKAY, ADOLF HITLER WAS BORN IN 1889, OKAY? SO THE SYMBOLS IN THE FLOOR DOWN THERE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
NOBODY IN THIS COUNTRY HAD EVEN HEARD OF HIM BEFORE 1924.
SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I HAVE NO IDEA, BUT DANTWON TOOK SOME PIX AND I'VE GOT THEM ON MY LAPTOP. I'M GONNA ANALYZE THEM NOW. YOU GUYS GO CHECK OUT THE BASEMENT.
I REMEMBER. OHMIGOD, WHAT WAS THE THING ABOUT NAZIS?
NOT NAZIS. JUST SWASTIKAS. THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT WHEN? 1870?
AROUND THEN, MAYBE A LITTLE BEFORE THAT.
UNH...
WELCOME BACK. YOU FAINTED.
C'MON, MAN, YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS SHIT.
UH... S-SURE.

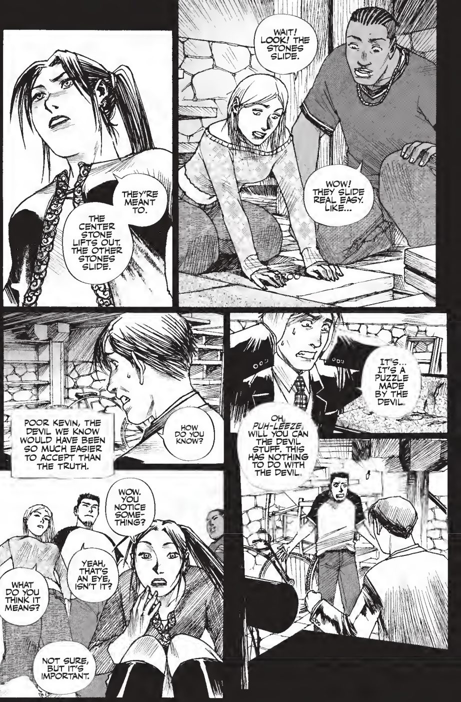

THIS IS EVIL, MAN. I CAN FEEL IT. REALLY EVIL.
JOIN THE CLUB. THERE'S A BUNCH OF FLAGSTONES HERE WITH SYMBOLS CARVED INTO THEM. I DON'T SEE ANY PATTERN, DO YOU?
THIS IS REALLY STRANGE. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, MAN, BUT I'M WONDERING WHAT THE HELL WENT ON IN THIS HOUSE.
O GOD IN HEAVEN...
I'VE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!!

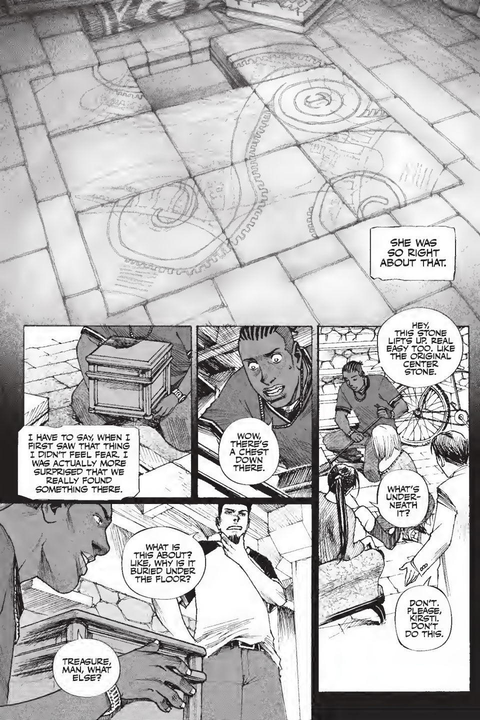

KIRSTI, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE, NOW! SATAN IS AT WORK HERE!!
OH MY GOD!
KEVIN! PLEASE SHUT UP ABOUT SATANISM. THESE SYMBOLS ARE NOT OF THE SATANIC TYPE.
THE SKELETON, OR WHATEVER IT REALLY IS, ISN'T INDICATIVE OF SATANISM, EITHER. IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE SOME KIND OF PRACTICAL JOKE.
LOOK, TOWNSEND, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
WILL YOU LISTEN TO THE EX-GOTH NOW? WHAT'S IT GONNA BE NEXT WEEK, KEVIN? TEXAS HOLD 'EM?
IF I'D ONLY LISTENED TO KEVIN SPEARS. NOT BECAUSE HE WAS RIGHT, BECAUSE HE WASN'T. HIS NOTIONS TURNED OUT TO BE AS QUAINT AS MODERN DAY PHYSICS, BUT BECAUSE I MIGHT NEVER HAVE LEARNED THE TRUTH.
COME WITH ME, PLEASE...
DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, KIRSTI! THEY CAN'T SEE THE OBVIOUS WHEN IT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES!

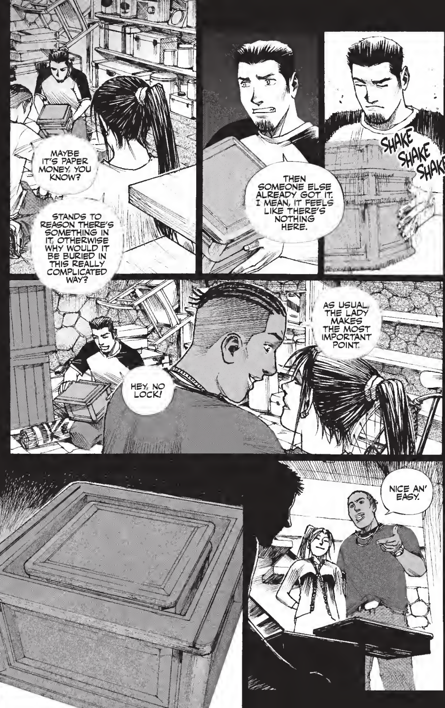

INTERESTING. IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S ANOTHER LAYER OF SYMBOLS TO THIS PICTURE.
WELL, WHATEVER THE HELL IT IS, IT'S GONNA MAKE THE PAPERS.
CLICK CLICK
CLICK
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?
WAIT, YOU MEAN THESE TILES MAKE UP SOMETHING ELSE?
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ANY OF THIS MEANS, KEV! WHY DON'T YOU GO PRAY AND LEAVE US ALONE?
THIS IS AN UNHOLY ABOMINATION, KIRSTI. WE MUST PRAY FOR THE LORD'S GRACE.
IT ISN'T RANDOM, THAT'S FOR SURE. LET'S REARRANGE 'EM AND SEE...

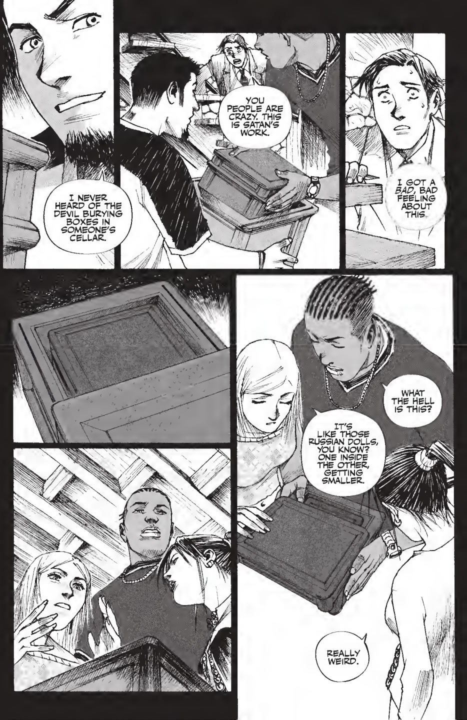

NO! KIRSTI, LISTEN TO ME. THERE IS EVIL, THERE IS ABOMINATION HERE!
KEVIN, I'M SORRY. I THINK YOU'D BETTER GO NOW. MY MOM WILL BE HOME SOON AND I HAVE TO BE HERE FOR HER.
HEY, GOTH-BOY, DO YOU REALIZE HOW RIDICULOUS YOU SOUND?
TOWNSEND, THINK ABOUT YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL! THINK ABOUT KIRSTI'S SOUL.
HEY, I THINK I'M ONTO SOMETHING HERE.
HERE, LET ME FINISH REARRANGING THESE SYMBOL STONES...

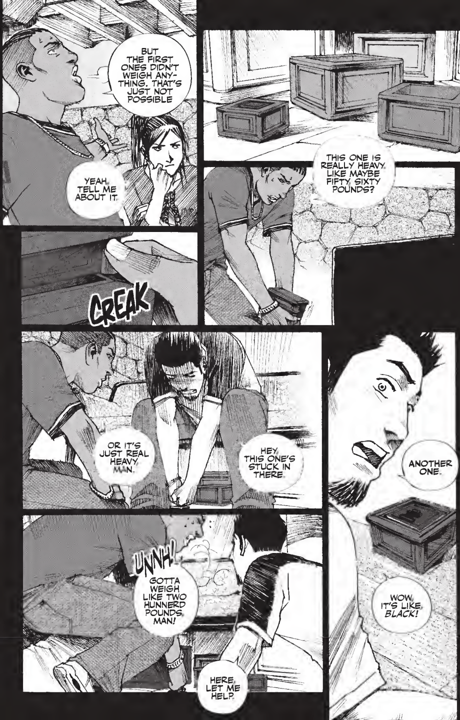

DANG! THAT'S WHAT THESE SYMBOLS MAKE UP? GIRL, YOU *ARE* A GENIUS.
YOU'RE SWEET, 'TWON, BUT LET'S WAIT UNTIL I'VE ACTUALLY DONE SOMETHING, OKAY?
RIGHT NOW I'M JUST A KID WITH A GOOD COMPUTER. AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THIS MEANS.
YEAH? MAYBE, BUT I THINK I GOT AN IDEA.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BACK TO THE BASEMENT, WHERE ELSE?
GOOD LUCK.
LIKE, SO WHAT?
YEAH.
I KNOW IT'S A PUZZLE OF SOME KIND. SEE, THE CENTER STONE CAME UP REAL EASY. BUT...

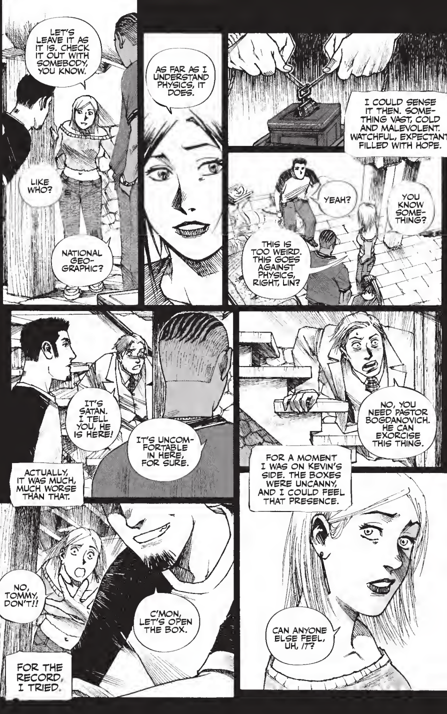

THEY'RE MEANT TO.
THE CENTER STONE LIFTS OUT. THE OTHER STONES SLIDE.
WAIT! LOOK! THE STONES SLIDE.
WOW! THEY SLIDE REAL EASY. LIKE...
SROO
POOR KEVIN, THE DEVIL WE KNOW WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER TO ACCEPT THAN THE TRUTH.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
IT'S... IT'S A PUZZLE MADE BY THE DEVIL.
OH, *PUH-LEEZE*, WILL YOU CAN THE DEVIL STUFF. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DEVIL.
WOW. YOU NOTICE SOMETHING?
YEAH, THAT'S AN EYE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS?
NOT SURE, BUT IT'S IMPORTANT.

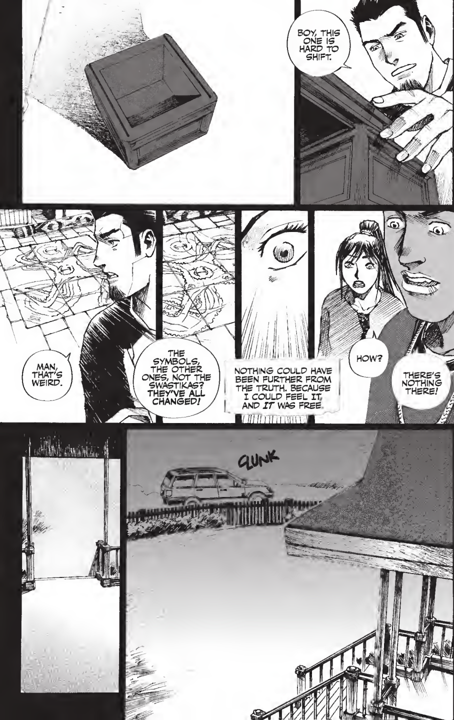

SHE WAS SO RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I HAVE TO SAY, WHEN I FIRST SAW THAT THING I DIDN'T FEEL FEAR. I WAS ACTUALLY MORE SURPRISED THAT WE REALLY FOUND SOMETHING THERE.
WOW, THERE'S A CHEST DOWN THERE.
HEY, THIS STONE LIFTS UP. REAL EASY TOO. LIKE THE ORIGINAL CENTER STONE.
WHAT'S UNDERNEATH IT?
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? LIKE, WHY IS IT BURIED UNDER THE FLOOR?
TREASURE, MAN, WHAT ELSE?
DON'T. PLEASE, KIRSTI. DON'T DO THIS.

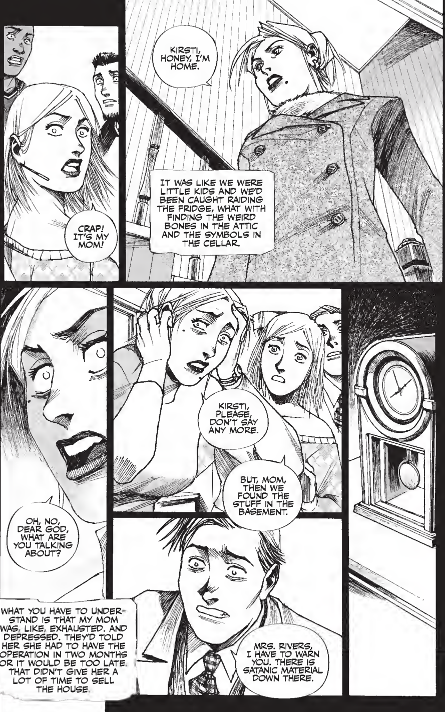

MAYBE IT'S PAPER MONEY, YOU KNOW?
STANDS TO REASON THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT. OTHERWISE WHY WOULD IT BE BURIED IN THIS REALLY COMPLICATED WAY?
THEN SOMEONE ELSE ALREADY GOT IT. I MEAN, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
AS USUAL, THE LADY MAKES THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT.
HEY, NO LOCK!
NICE AN' EASY.

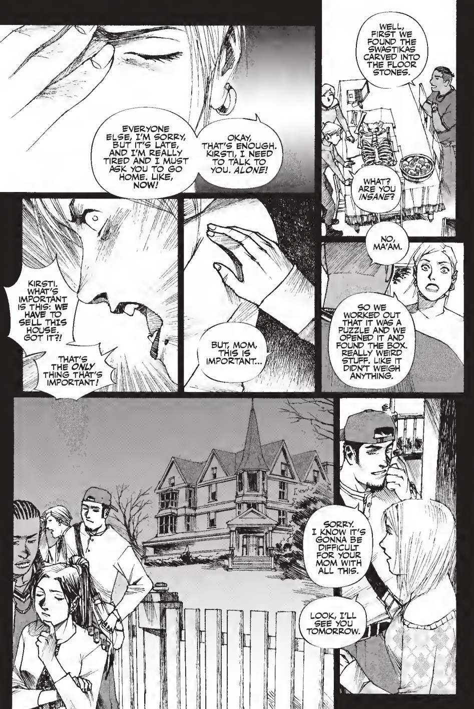

I NEVER HEARD OF THE DEVIL BURYING BOXES IN SOMEONE'S CELLAR.
YOU PEOPLE ARE CRAZY. THIS IS SATAN'S WORK.
I GOT A *BAD*, BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
IT'S LIKE THOSE RUSSIAN DOLLS, YOU KNOW? ONE INSIDE THE OTHER, GETTING SMALLER.
REALLY WEIRD.

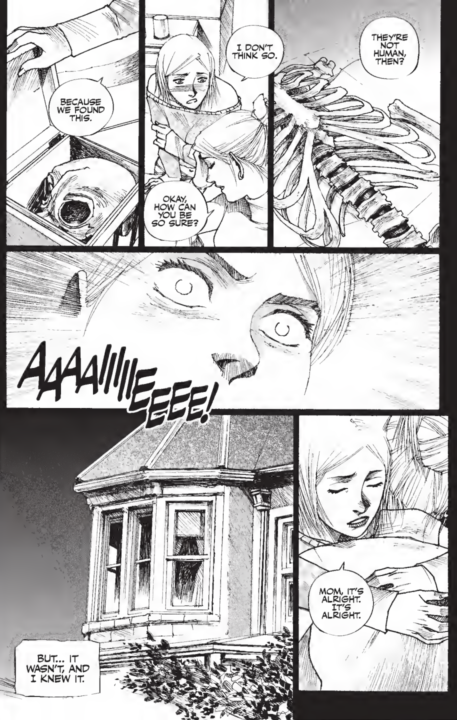

BUT THE FIRST ONES DIDN'T WEIGH ANYTHING. THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE
YEAH, TELL ME ABOUT IT.
THIS ONE IS REALLY HEAVY. LIKE MAYBE FIFTY, SIXTY POUNDS?
CREAK
OR IT'S JUST REAL HEAVY, MAN.
HEY, THIS ONE'S STUCK IN THERE.
ANOTHER ONE.
UNNH!
GOTTA WEIGH LIKE TWO HUNNERD POUNDS, MAN!
HERE, LET ME HELP.
WOW, IT'S LIKE *BLACK!*


LET'S LEAVE IT AS IT IS. CHECK IT OUT WITH SOMEBODY, YOU KNOW.
LIKE WHO?
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC?
I COULD SENSE IT THEN. SOMETHING VAST, COLD AND MALEVOLENT. WATCHFUL, EXPECTANT, FILLED WITH HOPE.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
YEAH?
THIS IS TOO WEIRD. THIS GOES AGAINST PHYSICS, RIGHT, LIN?
AS FAR AS I UNDERSTAND PHYSICS, IT DOES.
IT'S SATAN. I TELL YOU, HE IS HERE!
IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE IN HERE, FOR SURE.
ACTUALLY, IT WAS MUCH, MUCH WORSE THAN THAT.
NO, YOU NEED PASTOR BOGDANOVICH. HE CAN EXORCISE THIS THING.
FOR A MOMENT I WAS ON KEVIN'S SIDE. THE BOXES WERE UNCANNY, AND I COULD FEEL THAT PRESENCE.
CAN ANYONE ELSE FEEL, UH, IT?
C'MON, LET'S OPEN THE BOX.
NO, TOMMY, DON'T!!
FOR THE RECORD, I TRIED.


BOY, THIS ONE IS HARD TO SHIFT.
MAN, THAT'S WEIRD.
THE SYMBOLS, THE OTHER ONES, NOT THE SWASTIKAS? THEY'VE ALL CHANGED!
NOTHING COULD HAVE BEEN FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. BECAUSE I COULD FEEL IT, AND *IT* WAS FREE.
HOW?
THERE'S NOTHING THERE!
CLUNK

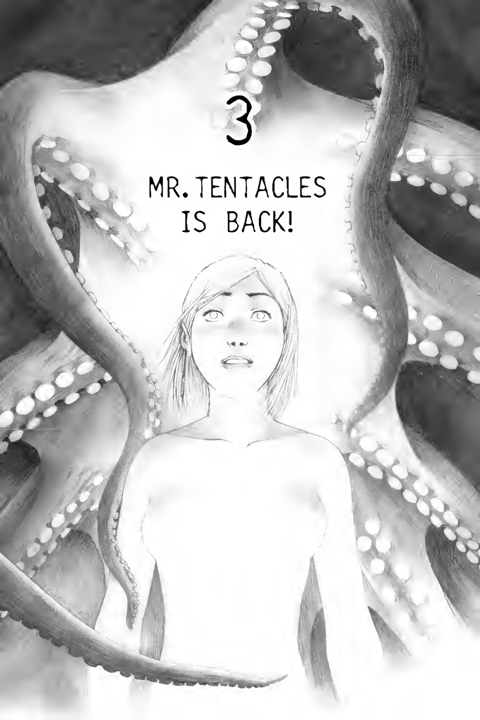

CRAP! IT'S MY MOM!
KIRSTI, HONEY, I'M HOME.
IT WAS LIKE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS AND WE'D BEEN CAUGHT RAIDING THE FRIDGE, WHAT WITH FINDING THE WEIRD BONES IN THE ATTIC AND THE SYMBOLS IN THE CELLAR.
KIRSTI, PLEASE, DON'T SAY ANY MORE.
BUT, MOM, THEN WE FOUND THE STUFF IN THE BASEMENT.
OH, NO, DEAR GOD, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT MY MOM WAS, LIKE, EXHAUSTED. AND DEPRESSED. THEY'D TOLD HER SHE HAD TO HAVE THE OPERATION IN TWO MONTHS OR IT WOULD BE TOO LATE. THAT DIDN'T GIVE HER A LOT OF TIME TO SELL THE HOUSE.
MRS. RIVERS, I HAVE TO WARN YOU. THERE IS SATANIC MATERIAL DOWN THERE.]

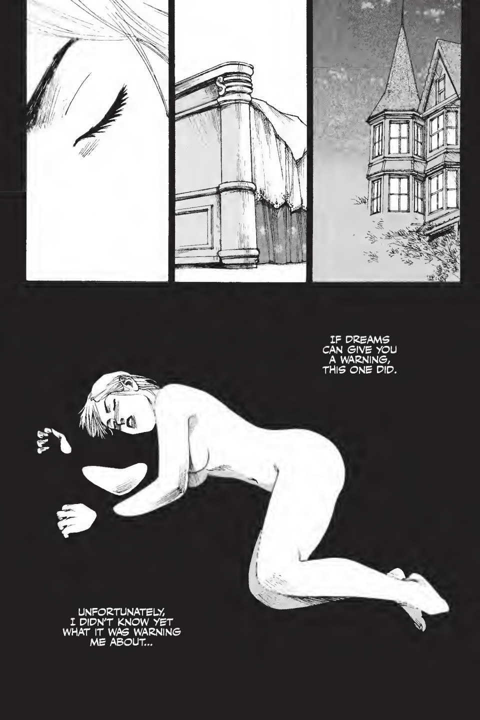

WELL, FIRST WE FOUND THE SWASTIKAS CARVED INTO THE FLOOR STONES.
WHAT? ARE YOU *INSANE*?
NO, MA'AM.
SO WE WORKED OUT THAT IT WAS A PUZZLE AND WE OPENED IT AND FOUND THE BOX. REALLY WEIRD STUFF. LIKE IT DIDN'T WEIGH ANYTHING.
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH. KIRSTI, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. *ALONE!*
EVERYONE ELSE, I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S LATE, AND I'M REALLY TIRED AND I MUST ASK YOU TO GO HOME. LIKE, *NOW!*
BUT, MOM, THIS IS IMPORTANT...
KIRSTI. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THIS: WE HAVE TO SELL THIS HOUSE. GOT IT?!
THAT'S THE *ONLY* THING THAT'S IMPORTANT!
SORRY. I KNOW IT'S GONNA BE DIFFICULT FOR YOUR MOM WITH ALL THIS.
LOOK, I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

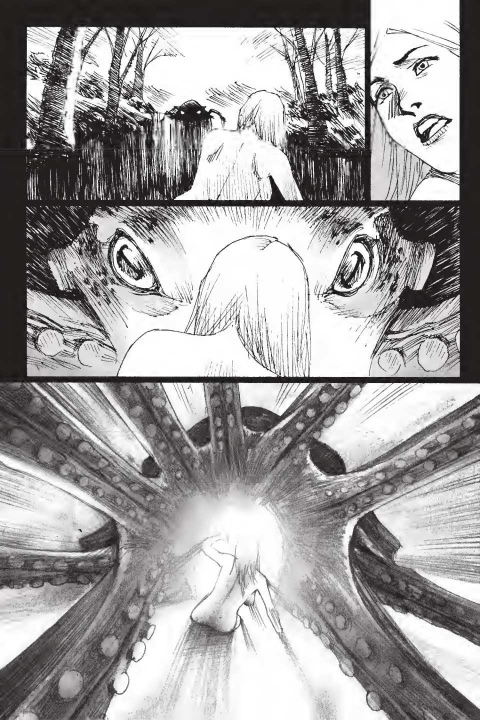

BECAUSE WE FOUND THIS.
I DON'T THINK SO.
OKAY, HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN, THEN?
AAAAIIIIIIEEEEE!
MOM, IT'S ALRIGHT. IT'S ALRIGHT.
BUT... IT WASN'T, AND I KNEW IT.

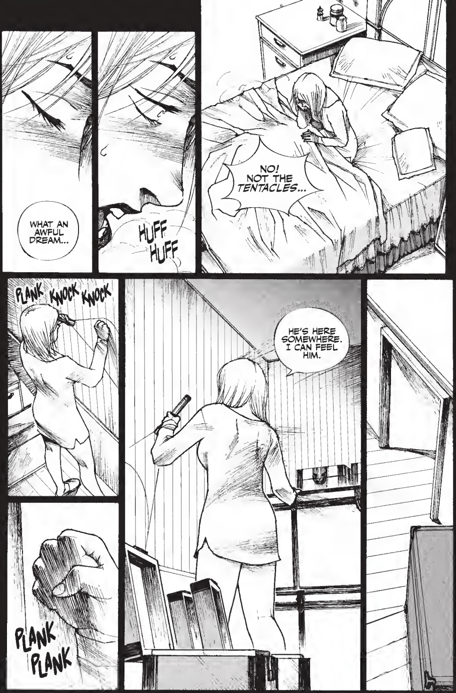
3

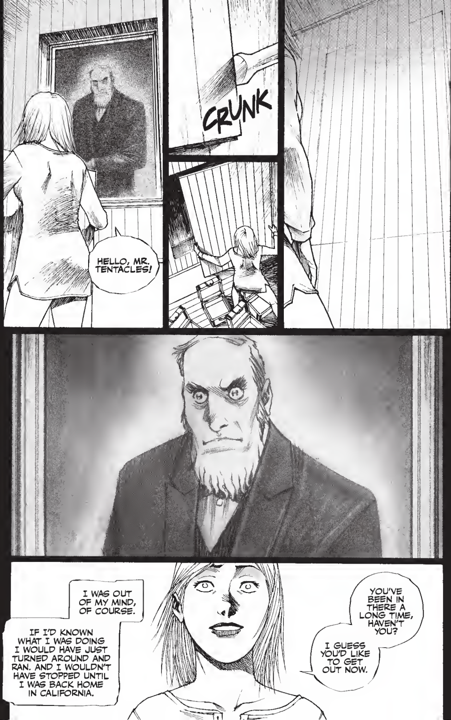
MR. TENTACLES IS BACK!

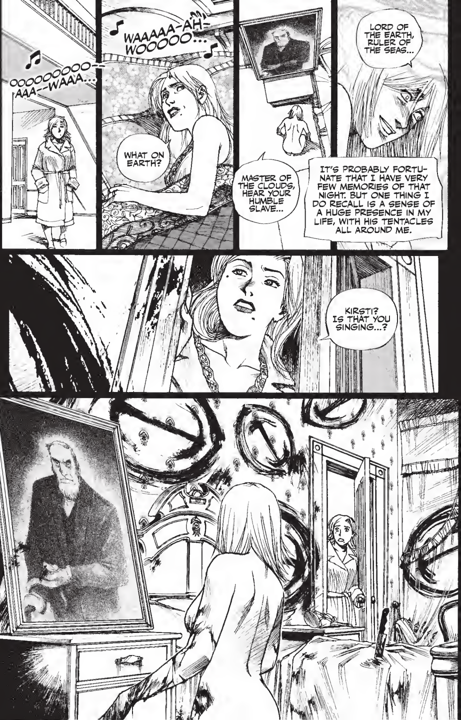


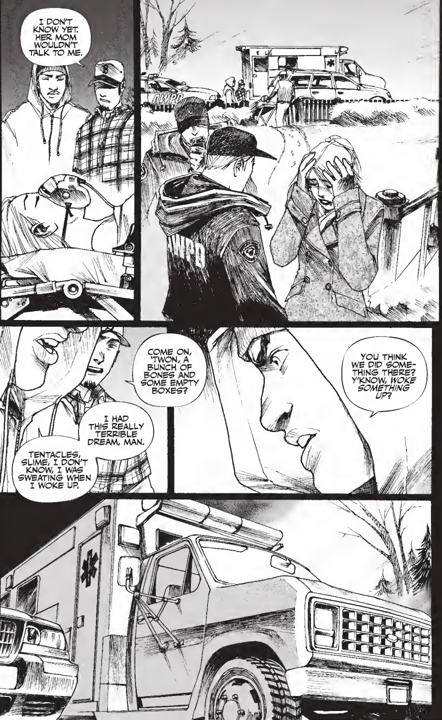

IF DREAMS CAN GIVE YOU A WARNING, THIS ONE DID.
UNFORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T KNOW YET WHAT IT WAS WARNING ME ABOUT...

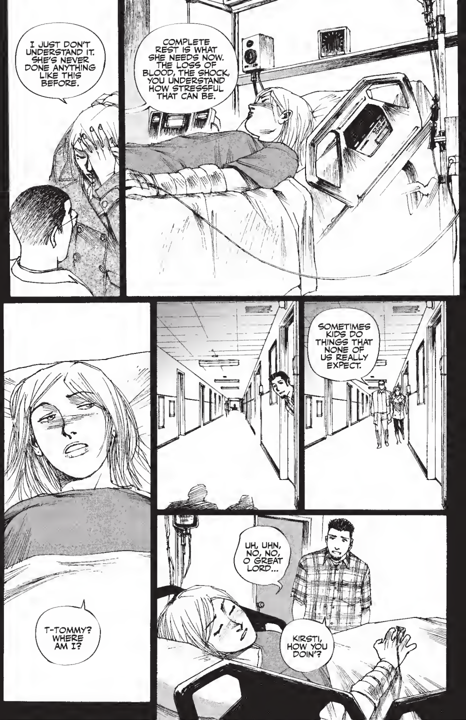


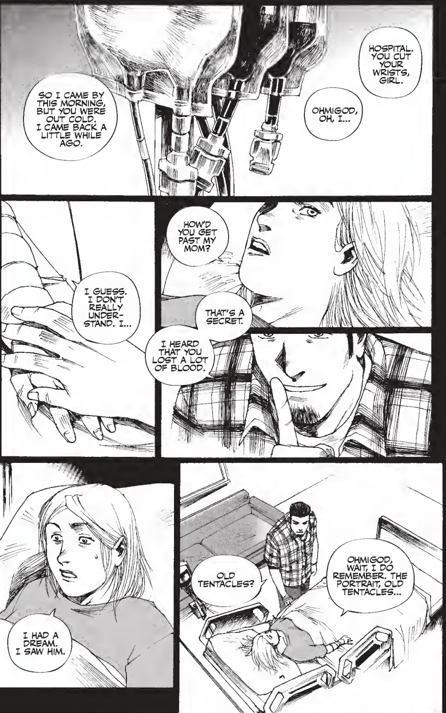

WHAT AN AWFUL DREAM...
HUFF HUFF
NO! NOT THE *TENTACLES*...
PLANK KNOCK KNOCK
HE'S HERE SOMEWHERE. I CAN FEEL HIM.
PLANK PLANK

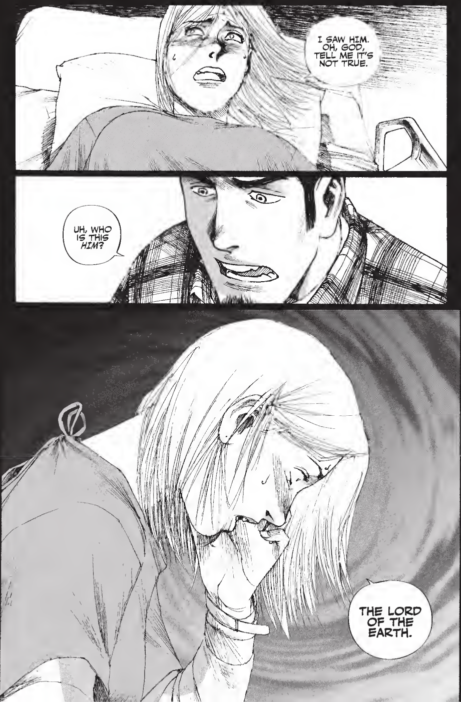

HELLO, MR. TENTACLES!
CRUNK
I WAS OUT OF MY MIND, OF COURSE.
IF I'D KNOWN WHAT I WAS DOING I WOULD HAVE JUST TURNED AROUND AND RAN. AND I WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED UNTIL I WAS BACK HOME IN CALIFORNIA.
YOU'VE BEEN IN THERE A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?
I GUESS YOU'D LIKE TO GET OUT NOW.


♪ OOOOOOOOO-- AAA--WAAA...
♪ WAAAAA-AH- WOOOOO... ♪
WHAT ON EARTH?
MASTER OF THE CLOUDS, HEAR YOUR HUMBLE SLAVE...
LORD OF THE EARTH, RULER OF THE SEAS...
IT'S PROBABLY FORTUNATE THAT I HAVE VERY FEW MEMORIES OF THAT NIGHT. BUT ONE THING I DO RECALL IS A SENSE OF A HUGE PRESENCE IN MY LIFE, WITH HIS TENTACLES ALL AROUND ME.
KIRSTI? IS THAT YOU SINGING...?


I DON'T KNOW YET. HER MOM WOULDN'T TALK TO ME.
AWPD
AWPD
COME ON, 'TWON, A BUNCH OF BONES AND SOME EMPTY BOXES?
I HAD THIS REALLY TERRIBLE DREAM, MAN.
TENTACLES, SLIME, I DON'T KNOW, I WAS SWEATING WHEN I WOKE UP.
YOU THINK WE DID SOMETHING THERE? Y'KNOW, *WOKE SOMETHING UP?*

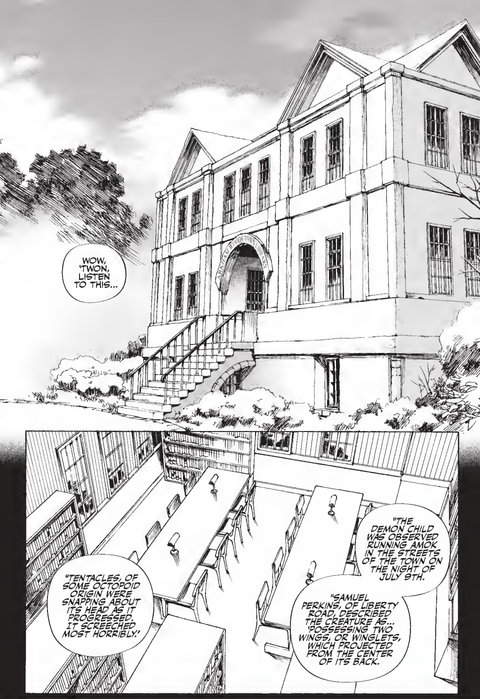

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. SHE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
COMPLETE REST IS WHAT SHE NEEDS NOW. THE LOSS OF BLOOD, THE SHOCK, YOU UNDERSTAND HOW STRESSFUL THAT CAN BE.
T-TOMMY? WHERE AM I?
SOMETIMES KIDS DO THINGS THAT NONE OF US REALLY EXPECT.
UH, UHN, NO, NO, O GREAT LORD...
KIRSTI, HOW YOU DOIN'?

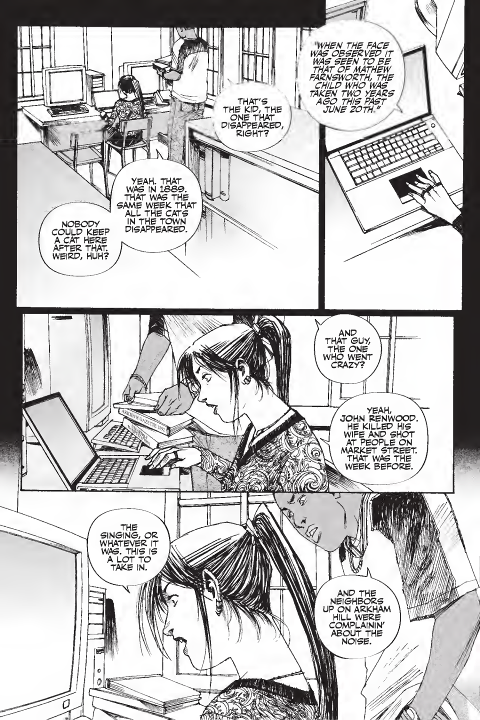

HOSPITAL. YOU CUT YOUR WRISTS, GIRL.
OHMIGOD, OH, I...
SO I CAME BY THIS MORNING, BUT YOU WERE OUT COLD. I CAME BACK A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
I HEARD THAT YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
I GUESS. I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND. I...
HOW'D YOU GET PAST MY MOM?
THAT'S A SECRET.
I HAD A DREAM. I SAW HIM.
OHMIGOD, WAIT, I DO REMEMBER. THE PORTRAIT, OLD TENTACLES...
OLD TENTACLES?

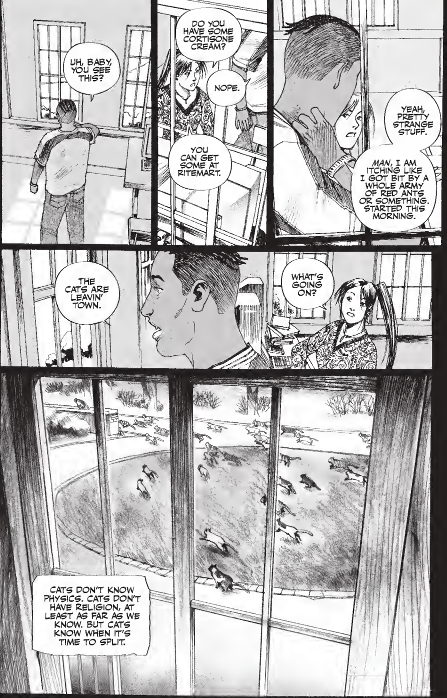

I SAW HIM. OH, GOD, TELL ME IT'S NOT TRUE.
UH, WHO IS THIS *HIM*?
THE LORD OF THE EARTH.

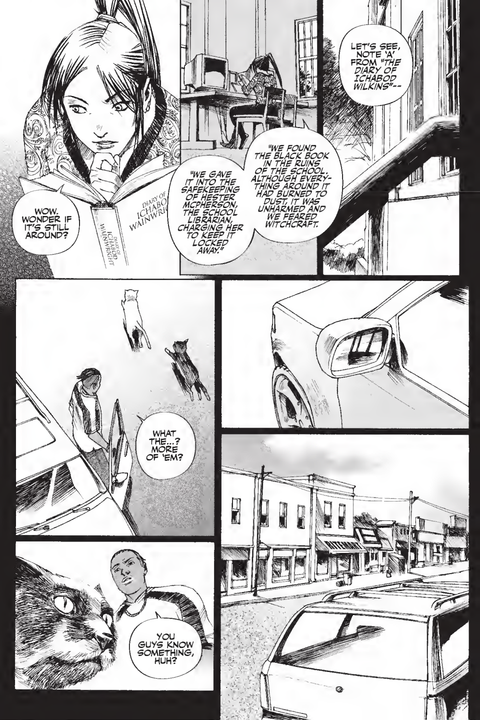
4

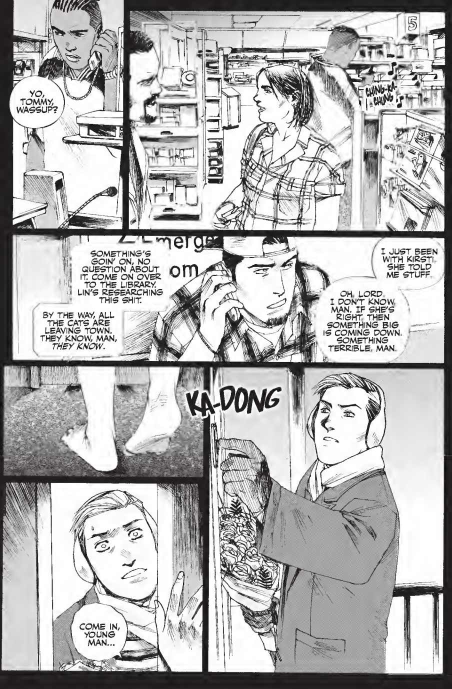
THE DEVIL YOU DON'T

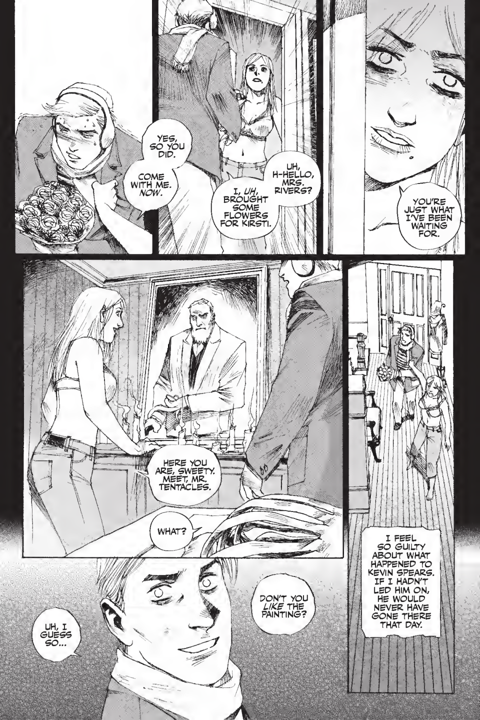

WOW, 'TWON, LISTEN TO THIS...
ARKHAM WOODSTOWN LIBRARY
"THE DEMON CHILD WAS OBSERVED RUNNING AMOK IN THE STREETS OF THE TOWN ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 9TH.
"SAMUEL PERKINS, OF LIBERTY ROAD, DESCRIBED THE CREATURE AS... 'POSSESSING TWO WINGS, OR WINGLETS, WHICH PROJECTED FROM THE CENTER OF ITS BACK.
"TENTACLES, OF SOME OCTOPOID ORIGIN WERE SNAPPING ABOUT ITS HEAD AS IT PROGRESSED. IT SCREECHED MOST HORRIBLY.'

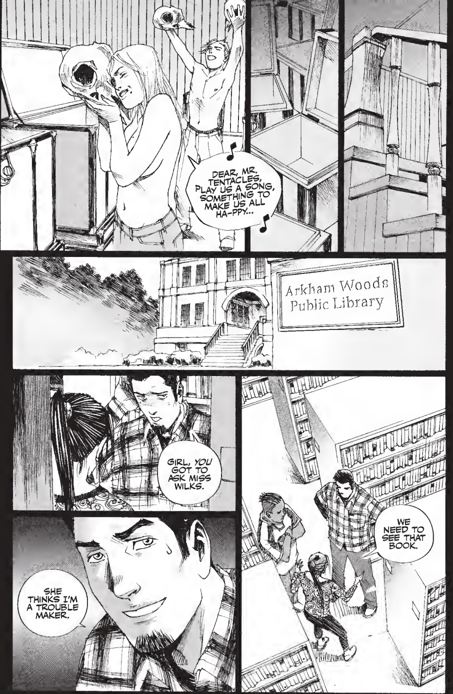

"WHEN THE FACE WAS OBSERVED IT WAS SEEN TO BE THAT OF MATHEW FARNSWORTH, THE CHILD WHO WAS TAKEN TWO YEARS AGO THIS PAST JUNE 20TH."
THAT'S THE KID, THE ONE THAT DISAPPEARED, RIGHT?
YEAH. THAT WAS IN 1889. THAT WAS THE SAME WEEK THAT ALL THE CATS IN THE TOWN DISAPPEARED.
NOBODY COULD KEEP A CAT HERE AFTER THAT. WEIRD, HUH?
ARKHAM GAZETTE 1892
AND THAT GUY, THE ONE WHO WENT CRAZY?
YEAH, JOHN RENWOOD. HE KILLED HIS WIFE AND SHOT AT PEOPLE ON MARKET STREET. THAT WAS THE WEEK BEFORE.
THE SINGING, OR WHATEVER IT WAS. THIS IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.
AND THE NEIGHBORS UP ON ARKHAM HILL WERE COMPLAININ' ABOUT THE NOISE.

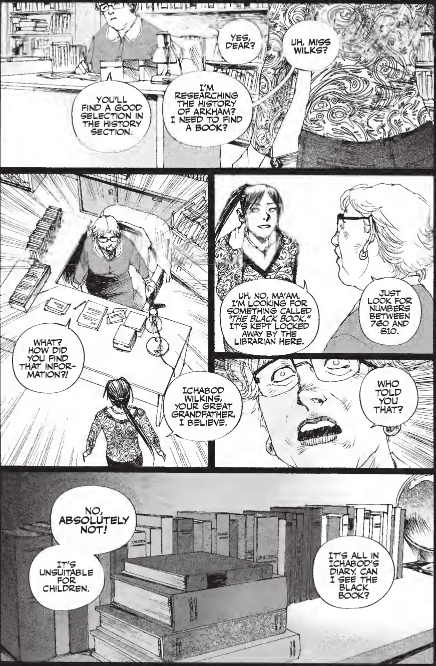

UH, BABY, YOU SEE THIS?
DO YOU HAVE SOME CORTISONE CREAM?
NOPE.
YOU CAN GET SOME AT RITEMART.
YEAH, PRETTY STRANGE STUFF.
MAN, I AM ITCHING LIKE I GOT BIT BY A WHOLE ARMY OF RED ANTS OR SOMETHING. STARTED THIS MORNING.
THE CATS ARE LEAVIN' TOWN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
CATS DON'T KNOW PHYSICS. CATS DON'T HAVE RELIGION, AT LEAST AS FAR AS WE KNOW. BUT CATS KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO SPLIT.

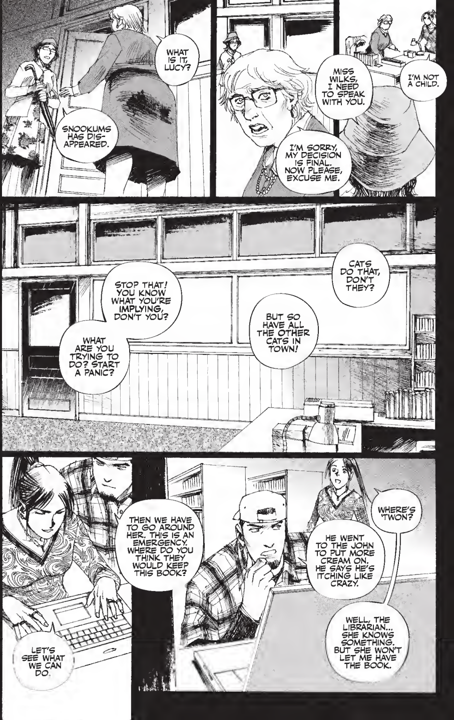

LET'S SEE, NOTE 'A' FROM "THE DIARY OF ICHABOD WILKINS"--
"WE FOUND THE BLACK BOOK IN THE RUINS OF THE SCHOOL. ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING AROUND IT HAD BURNED TO DUST, IT WAS UNHARMED AND WE FEARED WITCHCRAFT.
"WE GAVE IT INTO THE SAFEKEEPING OF HESTER MCPHERSON, THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN, CHARGING HER TO KEEP IT LOCKED AWAY."
DIARY OF ICHABOD WAINWRIGHT
DIARY OF ICHABOD WAINWRIGHT
WOW. WONDER IF IT'S STILL AROUND?
WHAT THE...? MORE OF 'EM?
YOU GUYS KNOW SOMETHING, HUH?

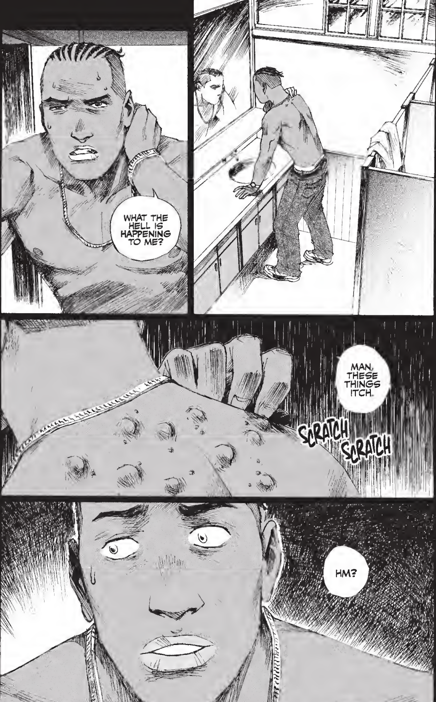

YO, TOMMY, WASSUP?
5
CHING-KA-CHUNG
Emerge
om
SOMETHING'S GOIN' ON, NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. COME ON OVER TO THE LIBRARY. LIN'S RESEARCHING THIS SHIT.
BY THE WAY, ALL THE CATS ARE LEAVING TOWN. THEY KNOW, MAN, *THEY KNOW*.
I JUST BEEN WITH KIRSTI. SHE TOLD ME STUFF.
OH, LORD. I DON'T KNOW, MAN. IF SHE'S RIGHT, THEN SOMETHING BIG IS COMING DOWN. SOMETHING TERRIBLE, MAN.
KA-DONG
COME IN, YOUNG MAN...

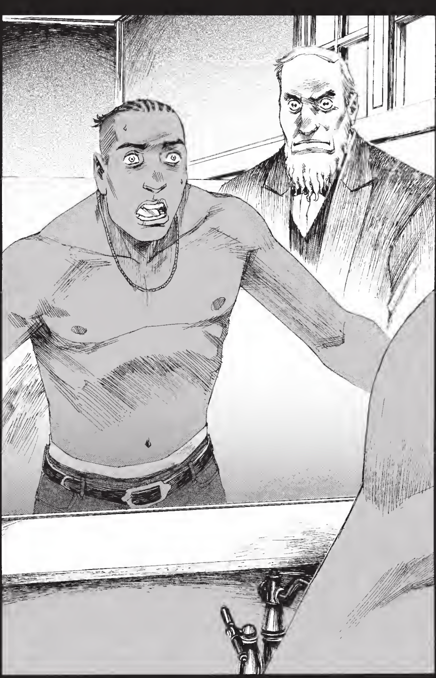

UH, H-HELLO, MRS. RIVERS?
I, *UH*, BROUGHT SOME FLOWERS FOR KIRSTI.
YES, SO YOU DID.
COME WITH ME. *NOW*.
YOU'RE JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
HERE YOU ARE, SWEETY. MEET, MR. TENTACLES.
WHAT?
DON'T YOU *LIKE* THE PAINTING?
UH, I GUESS SO...
I FEEL SO GUILTY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO KEVIN SPEARS. IF I HADN'T LED HIM ON, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE THERE THAT DAY.

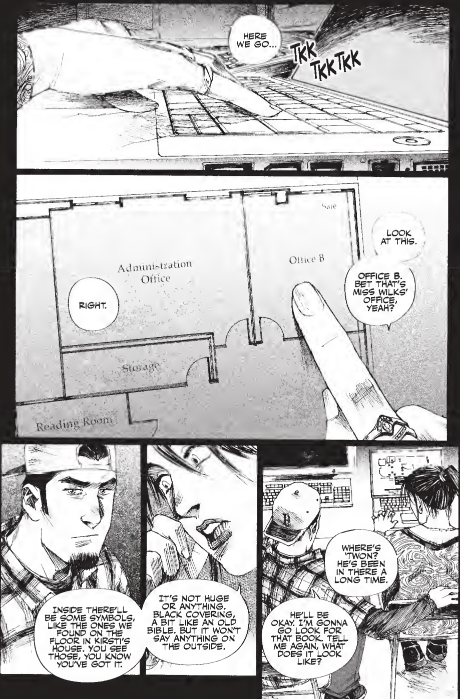

DEAR, MR. TENTACLES, PLAY US A SONG, SOMETHING TO MAKE US ALL HA-PPY...
Arkham Woods Public Library
GIRL, YOU GOT TO ASK MISS WILKS.
SHE THINKS I'M A TROUBLE MAKER.
WE NEED TO SEE THAT BOOK.

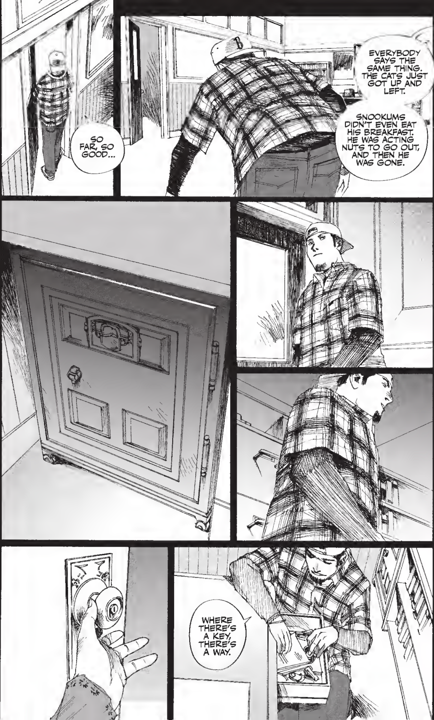

UH, MISS WILKS?
YES, DEAR?
I'M RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF ARKHAM? I NEED TO FIND A BOOK?
YOU'LL FIND A GOOD SELECTION IN THE HISTORY SECTION.
WHAT? HOW DID YOU FIND THAT INFORMATION?!
ICHABOD WILKINS, YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER, I BELIEVE.
JUST LOOK FOR NUMBERS BETWEEN 760 AND 810.
UH, NO, MA'AM. I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING CALLED "THE BLACK BOOK." IT'S KEPT LOCKED AWAY BY THE LIBRARIAN HERE.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT!
IT'S UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.
IT'S ALL IN ICHABOD'S DIARY. CAN I SEE THE BLACK BOOK?

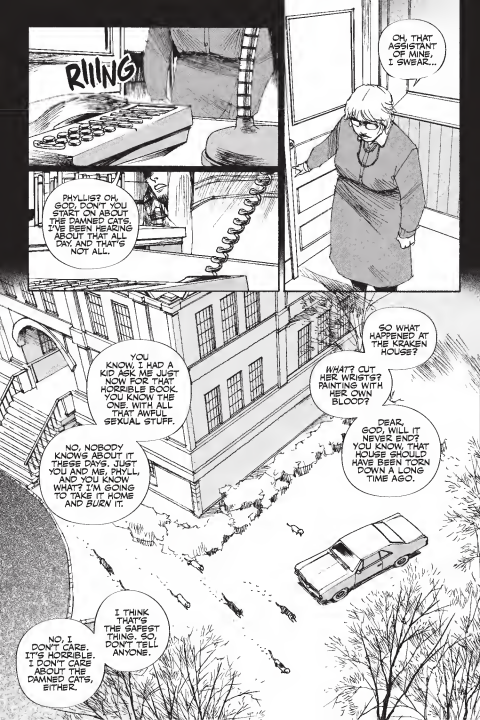

WHAT IS IT, LUCY?
SNOOKUMS HAS DIS-APPEARED.
MISS WILKS, I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
I'M NOT A CHILD.
I'M SORRY, MY DECISION IS FINAL. NOW PLEASE, EXCUSE ME.
CATS DO THAT, DON'T THEY?
BUT SO HAVE ALL THE OTHER CATS IN TOWN!
STOP THAT! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IMPLYING, DON'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? START A PANIC?
WHERE'S 'TWON?
HE WENT TO THE JOHN TO PUT MORE CREAM ON. HE SAYS HE'S ITCHING LIKE CRAZY.
WELL, THE LIBRARIAN... SHE KNOWS SOMETHING. BUT SHE WON'T LET ME HAVE THE BOOK.
THEN WE HAVE TO GO AROUND HER. THIS IS AN EMERGENCY. WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD KEEP THIS BOOK?
LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

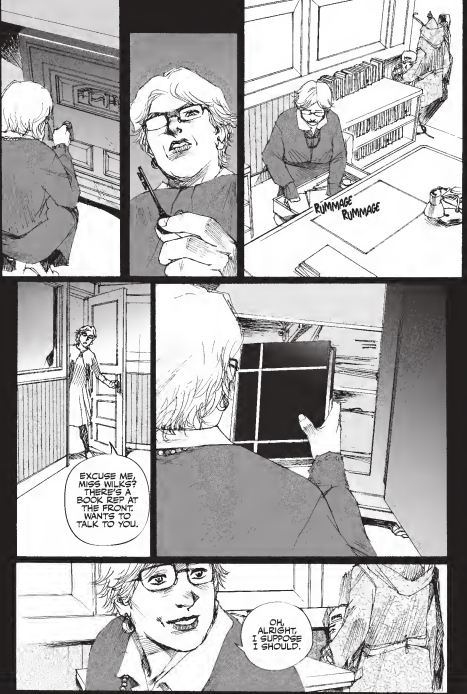

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO ME?
MAN, THESE THINGS ITCH.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
HM?

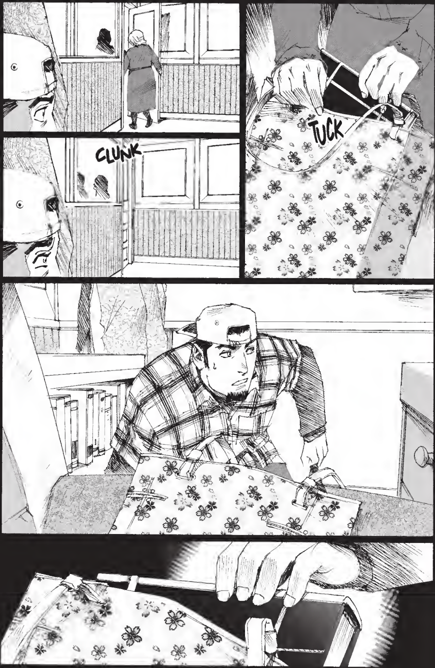


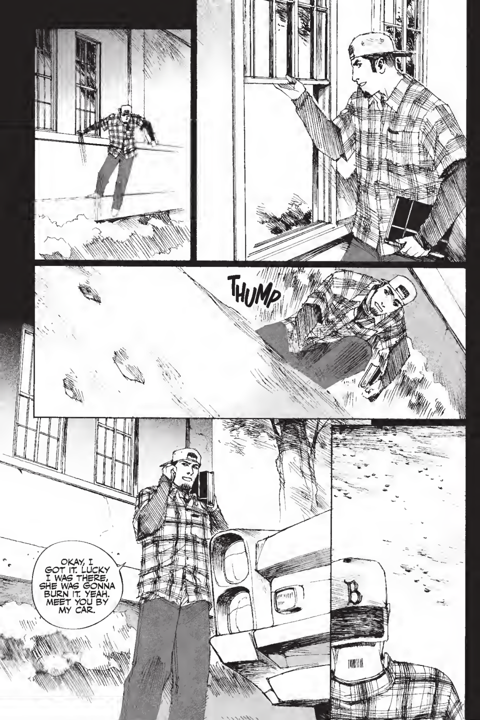

HERE WE GO...
TKK TKKTKK
Safe
Administration Office
Office B
Storage
Reading Room
LOOK AT THIS.
OFFICE B. BET THAT'S MISS WILKS' OFFICE, YEAH?
RIGHT.
WHERE'S 'TWON? HE'S BEEN IN THERE A LONG TIME.
HE'LL BE OKAY. I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR THAT BOOK. TELL ME AGAIN, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
IT'S NOT HUGE OR ANYTHING. BLACK COVERING, A BIT LIKE AN OLD BIBLE. BUT IT WON'T SAY ANYTHING ON THE OUTSIDE.
INSIDE THERE'LL BE SOME SYMBOLS, LIKE THE ONES WE FOUND ON THE FLOOR IN KIRSTI'S HOUSE. YOU SEE THOSE, YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

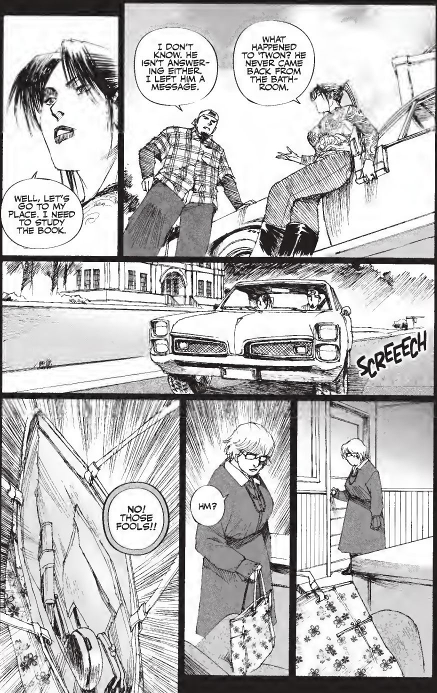

SO FAR, SO GOOD...
EVERYBODY SAYS THE SAME THING. THE CATS JUST GOT UP AND LEFT.
SNOOKUMS DIDN'T EVEN EAT HIS BREAKFAST. HE WAS ACTING NUTS TO GO OUT, AND THEN HE WAS GONE.
WHERE THERE'S A KEY, THERE'S A WAY.

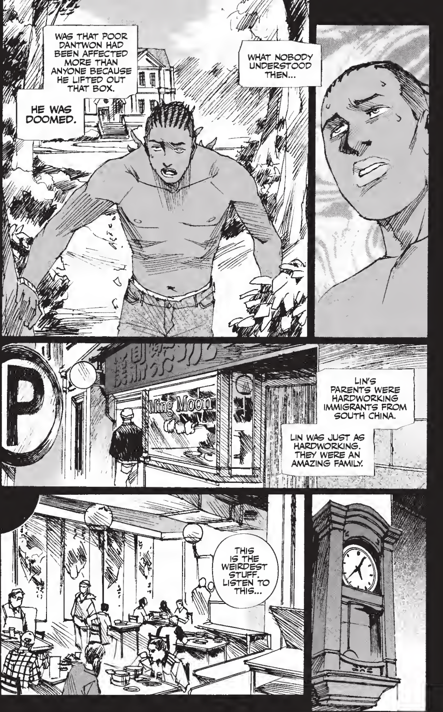

RIIING
OH, THAT ASSISTANT OF MINE, I SWEAR...
PHYLLIS? OH, GOD, DON'T YOU START ON ABOUT THE DAMNED CATS. I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THAT ALL DAY. AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
SO WHAT HAPPENED AT THE KRAKEN HOUSE?
WHAT? CUT HER WRISTS? PAINTING WITH HER OWN BLOOD?
DEAR, GOD, WILL IT NEVER END? YOU KNOW, THAT HOUSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU KNOW, I HAD A KID ASK ME JUST NOW FOR THAT HORRIBLE BOOK. YOU KNOW THE ONE. WITH ALL THAT AWFUL SEXUAL STUFF.
NO, NOBODY KNOWS ABOUT IT THESE DAYS. JUST YOU AND ME, PHYLL, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO TAKE IT HOME AND *BURN* IT.
I THINK THAT'S THE SAFEST THING. SO, DON'T TELL ANYONE.
NO, I DON'T CARE. IT'S HORRIBLE. I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DAMNED CATS, EITHER.

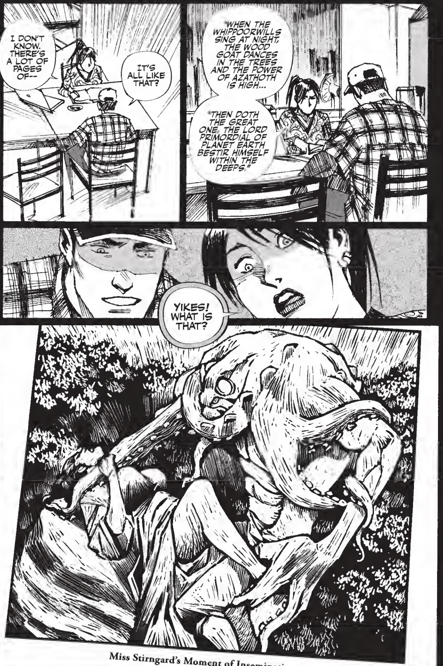

RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
EXCUSE ME, MISS WILKS? THERE'S A BOOK REP AT THE FRONT. WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
OH, ALRIGHT, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD.


CLUNK
TUCK

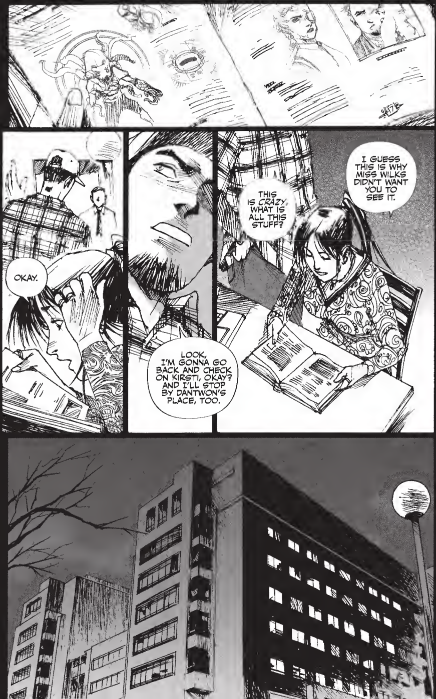

THUMP
OKAY, I GOT IT. LUCKY I WAS THERE, SHE WAS GONNA BURN IT. YEAH. MEET YOU BY MY CAR.
B

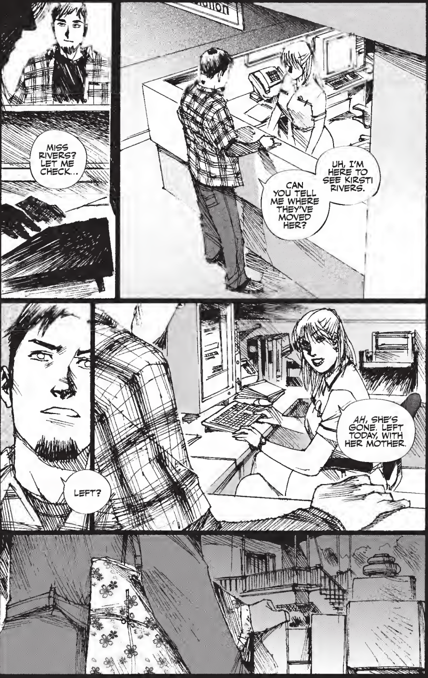

WHAT HAPPENED TO 'TWON? HE NEVER CAME BACK FROM THE BATHROOM.
I DON'T KNOW. HE ISN'T ANSWERING EITHER. I LEFT HIM A MESSAGE.
WELL, LET'S GO TO MY PLACE. I NEED TO STUDY THE BOOK.
SCREEECH
NO! THOSE FOOLS!!
HM?

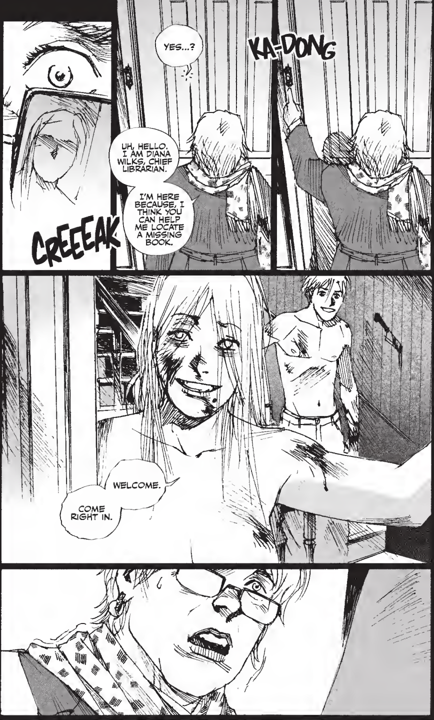

WHAT NOBODY UNDERSTOOD THEN...
WAS THAT POOR DANTWON HAD BEEN AFFECTED MORE THAN ANYONE BECAUSE HE LIFTED OUT THAT BOX.
HE WAS DOOMED.
Ming Moon
LIN'S PARENTS WERE HARDWORKING IMMIGRANTS FROM SOUTH CHINA.
LIN WAS JUST AS HARDWORKING. THEY WERE AN AMAZING FAMILY.
THIS IS THE WEIRDEST STUFF. LISTEN TO THIS...

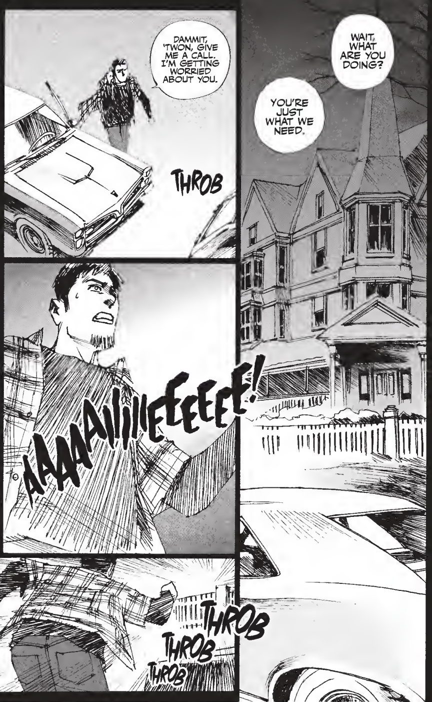

I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S A LOT OF PAGES OF--
IT'S ALL LIKE THAT?
"WHEN THE WHIPPOORWILLS SING AT NIGHT, THE WOOD GOAT DANCES IN THE TREES AND THE POWER OF AZATHOTH IS HIGH...
"THEN DOTH THE GREAT ONE, THE LORD PRIMORDIAL OF PLANET EARTH BESTIR HIMSELF WITHIN THE DEEPS."
YIKES! WHAT IS THAT?

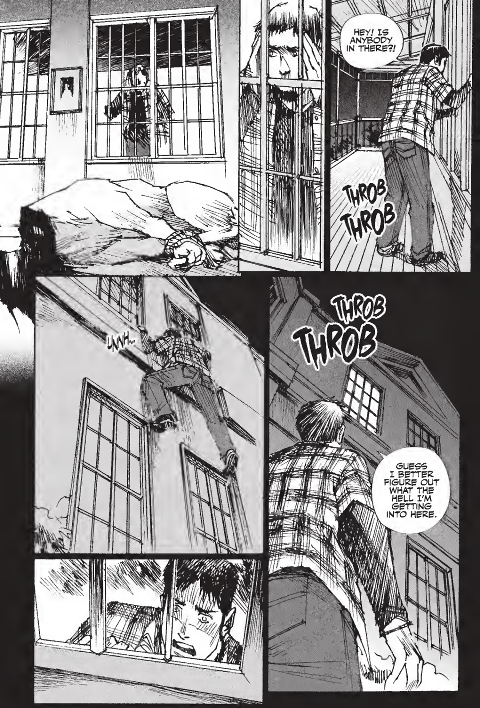
Miss Stirngard's Moment of Insemination.

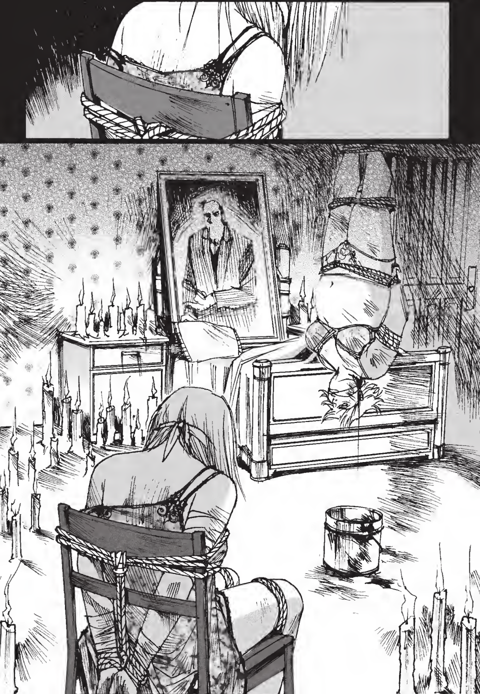

OKAY.
LOOK, I'M GONNA GO BACK AND CHECK ON KIRSTI, OKAY? AND I'LL STOP BY DANTWON'S PLACE, TOO.
THIS IS *CRAZY*. WHAT IS ALL THIS STUFF?
I GUESS THIS IS WHY MISS WILKS DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE IT.

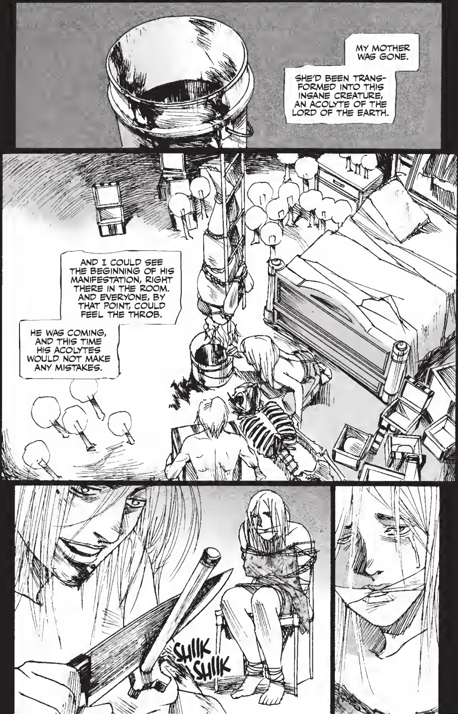

UH, I'M HERE TO SEE KIRSTI RIVERS.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THEY'VE MOVED HER?
MISS RIVERS? LET ME CHECK...
AH, SHE'S GONE. LEFT TODAY, WITH HER MOTHER.
LEFT?

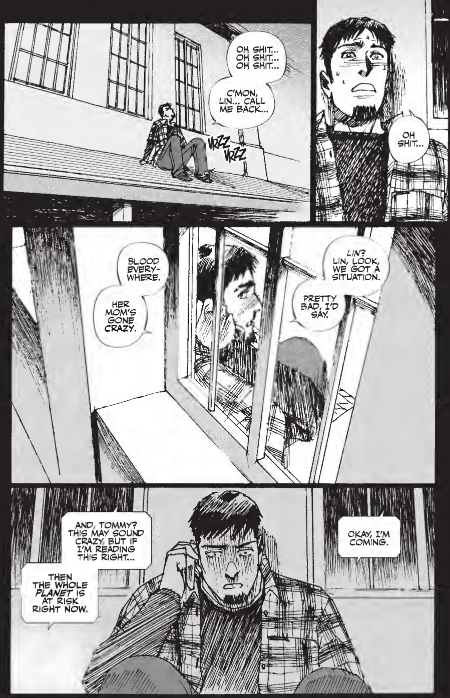

KA-DONG
YES...?
UH, HELLO. I AM DIANA WILKS, CHIEF LIBRARIAN.
I'M HERE BECAUSE, I THINK YOU CAN HELP ME LOCATE A MISSING BOOK.
CREEEAK
WELCOME.
COME RIGHT IN.


DAMMIT, 'TWON, GIVE ME A CALL. I'M GETTING WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THROB
AAAAIIIIEEEEEE!
THROB
THROB
THROB
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE JUST WHAT WE NEED.


HEY! IS ANYBODY IN THERE?!
THROB THROB
THROB THROB
GUESS I BETTER FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HELL I'M GETTING INTO HERE.
UNNH...

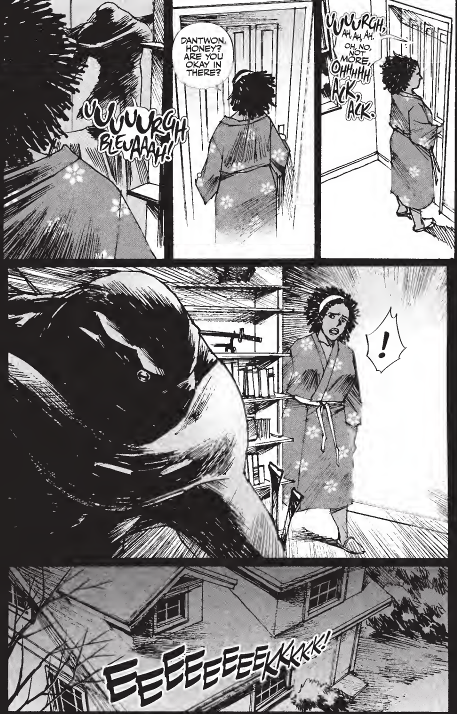


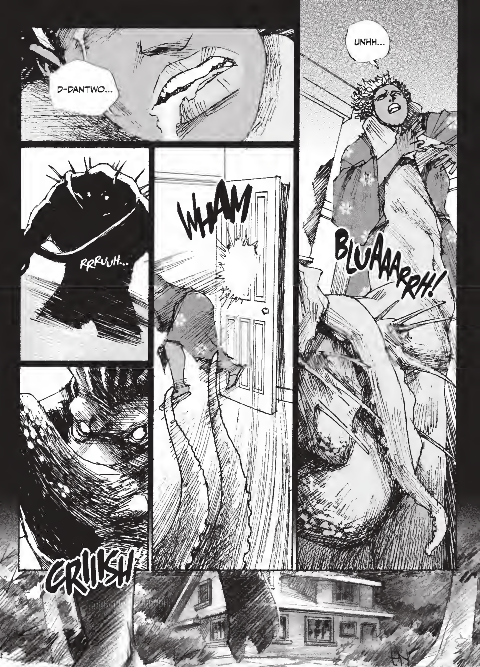

MY MOTHER WAS GONE.
SHE'D BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO THIS INSANE CREATURE, AN ACOLYTE OF THE LORD OF THE EARTH.
AND I COULD SEE THE BEGINNING OF HIS MANIFESTATION, RIGHT THERE IN THE ROOM. AND EVERYONE, BY THAT POINT, COULD FEEL THE THROB.
HE WAS COMING, AND THIS TIME HIS ACOLYTES WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
SHIIK
SHIIK

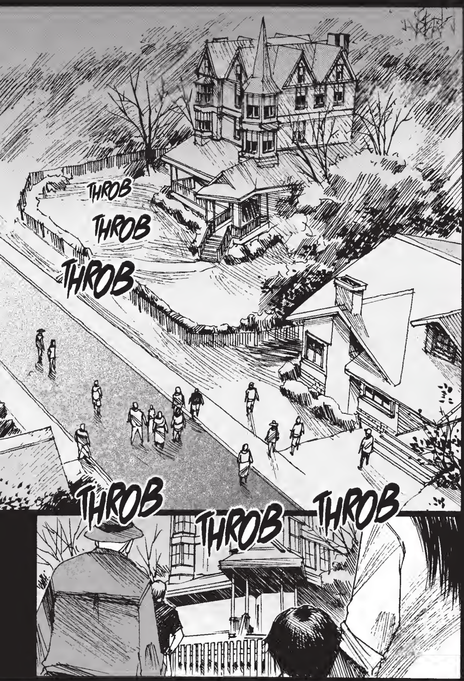

OH SHIT... OH SHIT... OH SHIT...
C'MON, LIN... CALL ME BACK...
VRZZ VRZZ
OH SHIT...
LIN? LIN, LOOK, WE GOT A SITUATION.
PRETTY BAD, I'D SAY.
BLOOD EVERYWHERE.
HER MOM'S GONE CRAZY.
AND, TOMMY? THIS MAY SOUND CRAZY, BUT IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT...
THEN THE WHOLE *PLANET* IS AT RISK RIGHT NOW.
OKAY, I'M COMING.

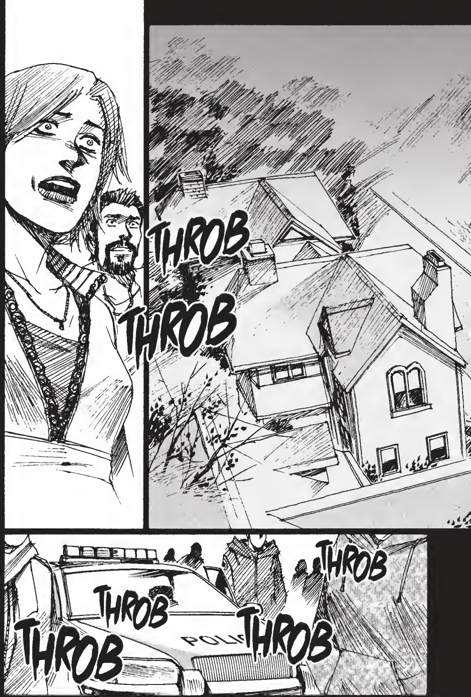
5

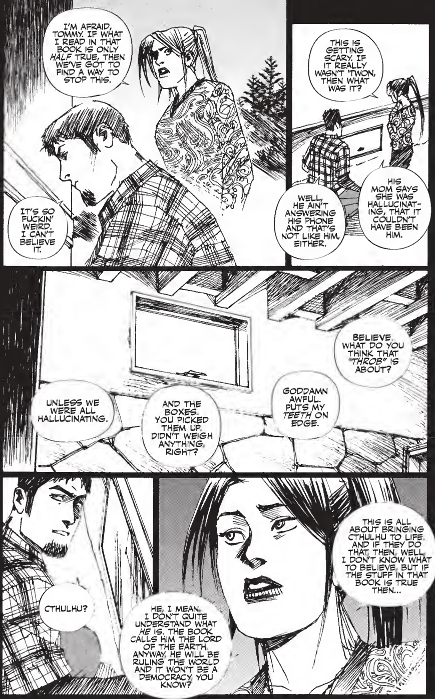
BITING THE BRAIN

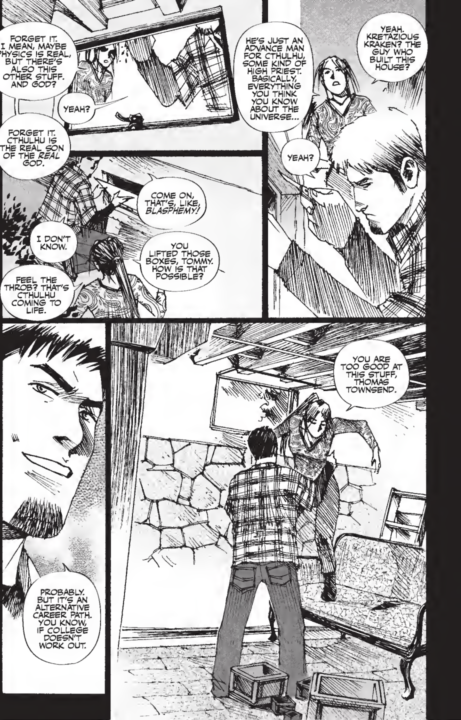

UUUURGH BLEUAAAH!
DANTWON, HONEY? ARE YOU OKAY IN THERE?
UUUURGH, AH, AH, AH, OH, NO, NOT MORE, OHHHHH ACK, ACK.
!
EEEEEEEEKKKKK!

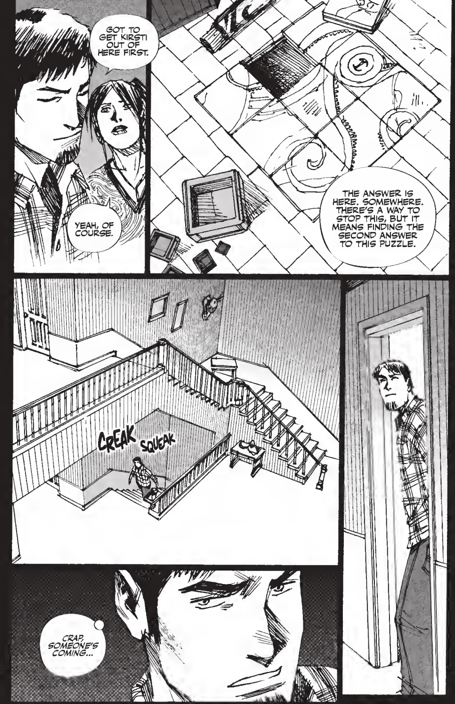

D-DANTWO...
UNHH...
RRRUUH...
WHAM
BLUAAARRH!
CRIISH

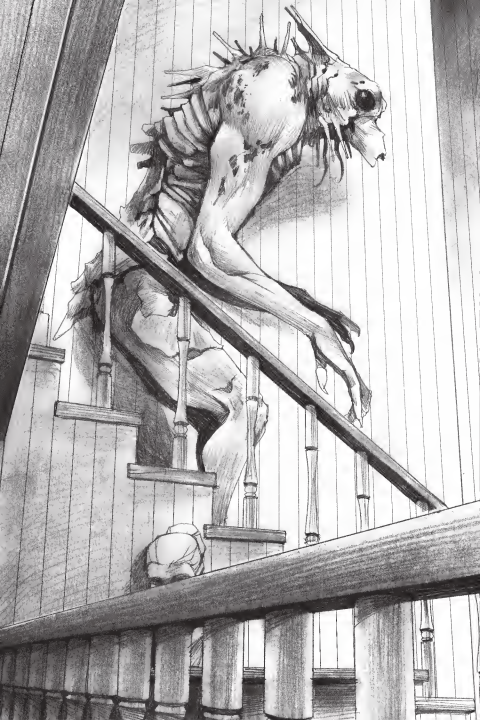

THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB

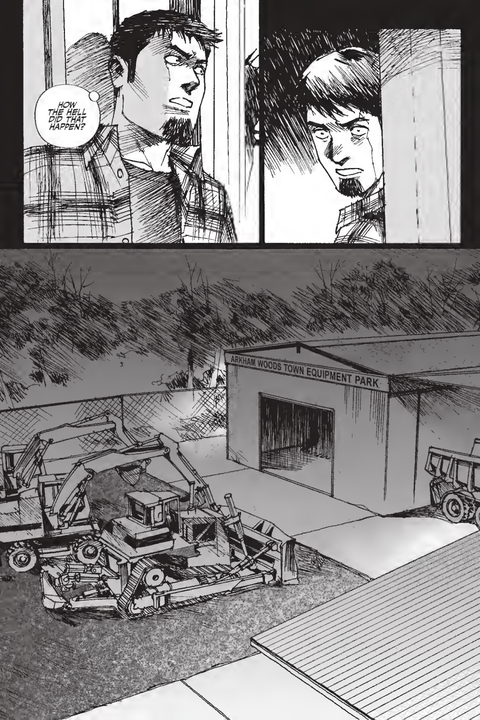

THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
POLI

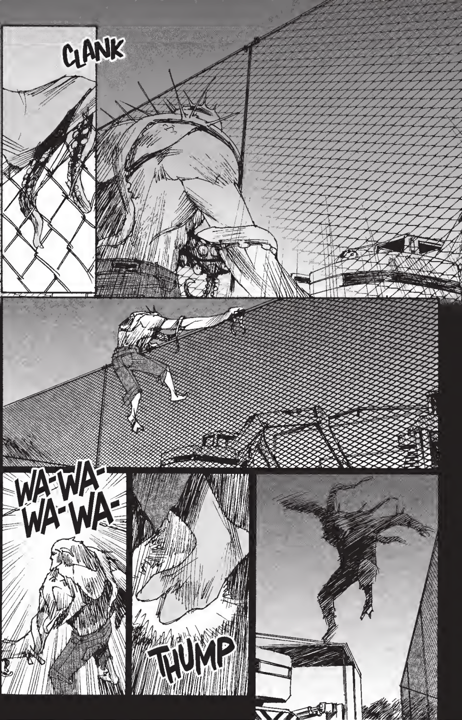

I'M AFRAID, TOMMY. IF WHAT I READ IN THAT BOOK IS ONLY *HALF* TRUE, THEN WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS.
IT'S SO FUCKIN' WEIRD. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
THIS IS GETTING SCARY. IF IT REALLY WASN'T 'TWON, THEN WHAT WAS IT?
HIS MOM SAYS SHE WAS HALLUCINATING, THAT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HIM.
WELL, HE AIN'T ANSWERING HIS PHONE AND THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM, EITHER.
UNLESS WE WERE ALL HALLUCINATING.
AND THE BOXES. YOU PICKED THEM UP. DIDN'T WEIGH ANYTHING, RIGHT?
BELIEVE. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT *"THROB"* IS ABOUT?
GODDAMN AWFUL. PUTS MY *TEETH* ON EDGE.
THIS IS ALL ABOUT BRINGING CTHULHU TO LIFE. AND IF THEY DO THAT, THEN, WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE, BUT IF THE STUFF IN THAT BOOK IS TRUE THEN...
CTHULHU?
HE, I MEAN. I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT *HE* IS. THE BOOK CALLS HIM THE LORD OF THE EARTH. ANYWAY, HE WILL BE RULING THE WORLD AND IT WON'T BE A DEMOCRACY, YOU KNOW?

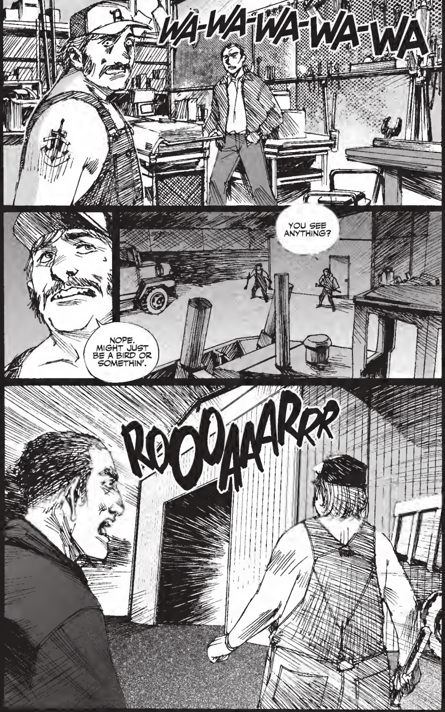

FORGET IT. I MEAN, MAYBE PHYSICS IS REAL, BUT THERE'S ALSO THIS OTHER STUFF. AND GOD?
YEAH?
FORGET IT. CTHULHU IS THE REAL SON OF THE *REAL* GOD.
COME ON, THAT'S, LIKE, *BLASPHEMY!*
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU LIFTED THOSE BOXES, TOMMY. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
FEEL THE THROB? THAT'S CTHULHU COMING TO LIFE.
YEAH. KRETAZIOUS KRAKEN? THE GUY WHO BUILT THIS HOUSE?
HE'S JUST AN ADVANCE MAN FOR CTHULHU, SOME KIND OF HIGH PRIEST. BASICALLY, EVERYTHING YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT THE UNIVERSE...
YEAH?
PROBABLY. BUT IT'S AN ALTERNATIVE CAREER PATH. YOU KNOW, IF COLLEGE DOESN'T WORK OUT.
YOU ARE TOO GOOD AT THIS STUFF, THOMAS TOWNSEND.

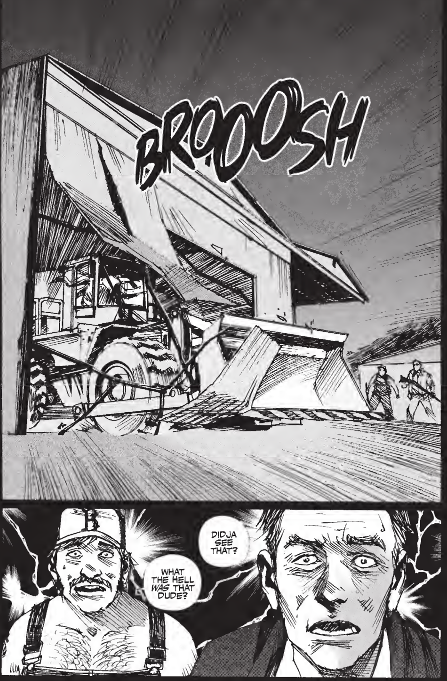

GOT TO GET KIRSTI OUT OF HERE FIRST.
YEAH, OF COURSE.
THE ANSWER IS HERE. SOMEWHERE. THERE'S A WAY TO STOP THIS, BUT IT MEANS FINDING THE SECOND ANSWER TO THIS PUZZLE.
CREAK
SQUEAK
CRAP, SOMEONE'S COMING...

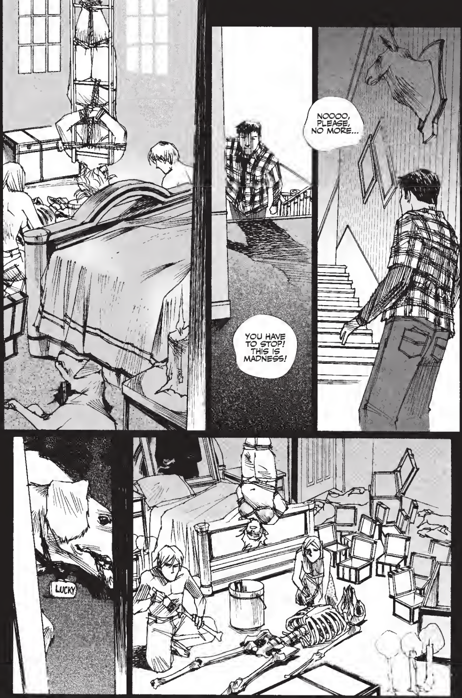


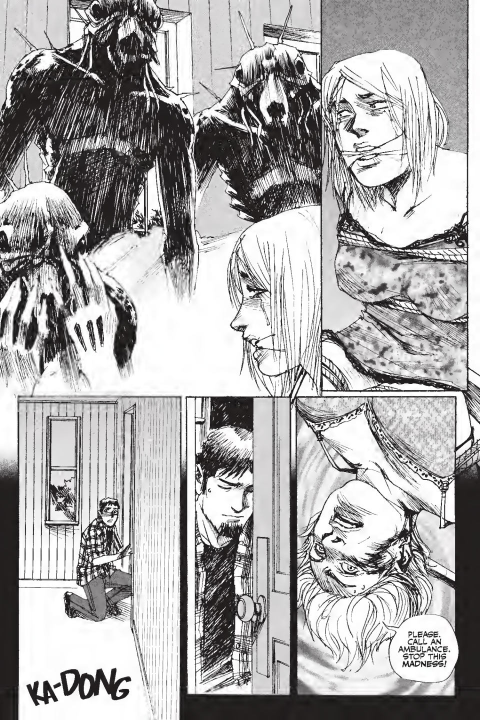

HOW THE HELL DID THAT HAPPEN?
ARKHAM WOODS TOWN EQUIPMENT PARK

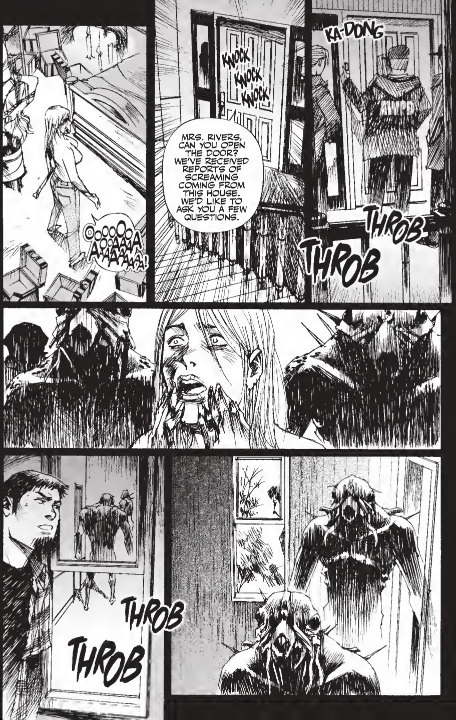

CLANK
WA-WA-WA-WA-
THUMP

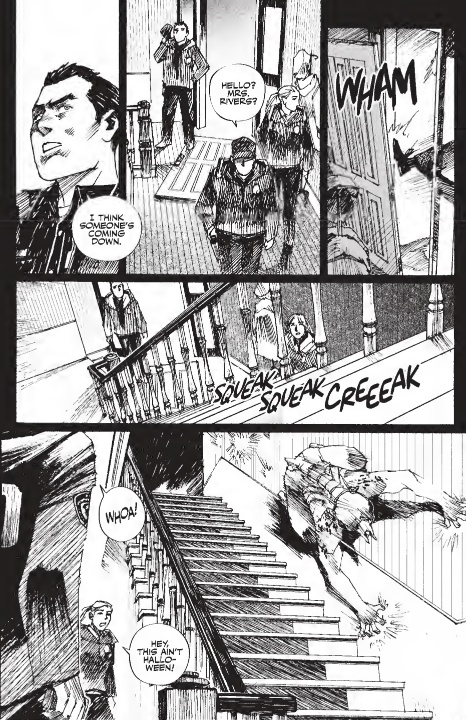

WA-WA-WA-WA-WA
YOU SEE ANYTHING?
NOPE. MIGHT JUST BE A BIRD OR SOMETHIN'.
ROOOAAARRR

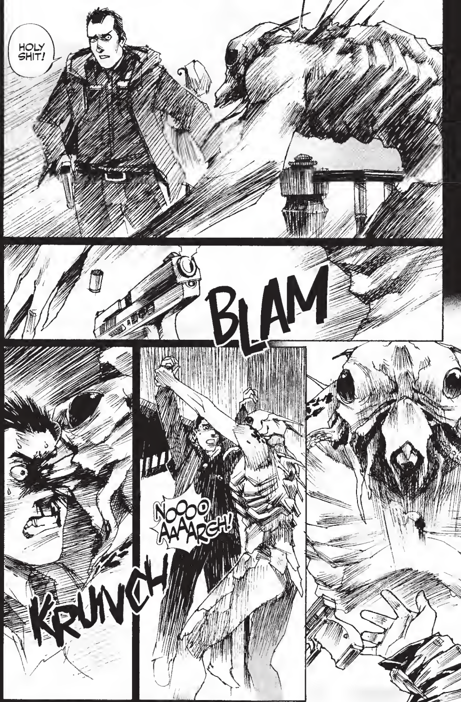

BROOOSH
DIDJA SEE THAT?
WHAT THE HELL *WAS* THAT DUDE?

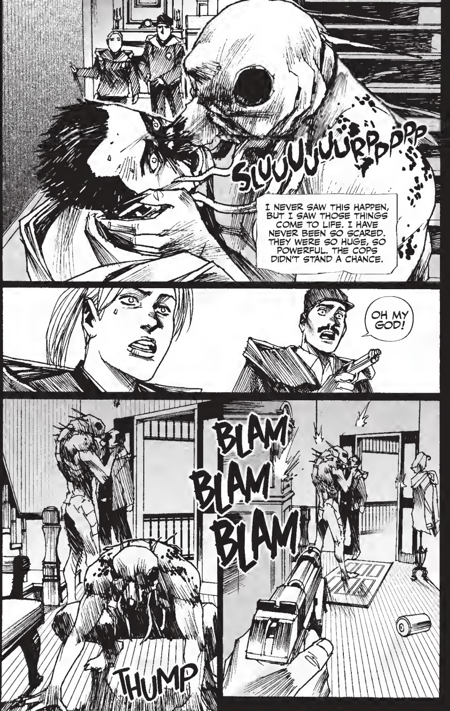

YOU HAVE TO STOP! THIS IS MADNESS!
NOOOO, PLEASE, NO MORE...
LUCKY

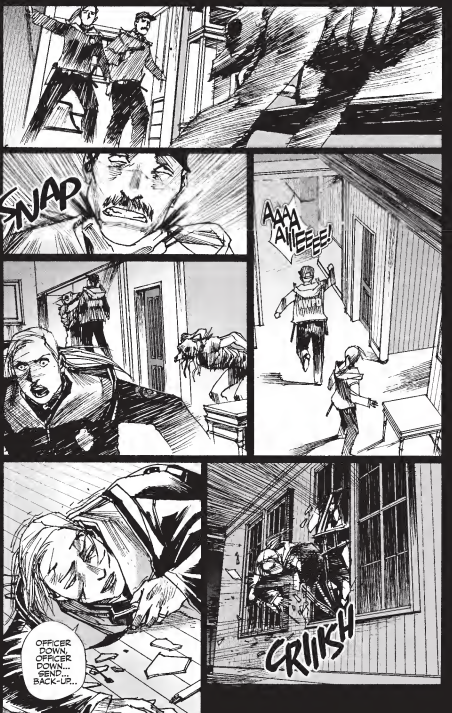

PLEASE. CALL AN AMBULANCE. STOP THIS MADNESS!
KA-DONG

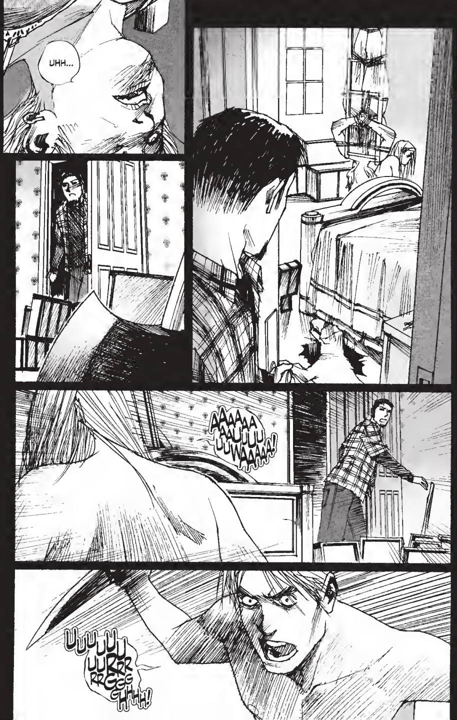

OOOOOOA
OOAAAA
AAAAAAAAA!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
MRS. RIVERS, CAN YOU OPEN THE DOOR? WE'VE RECEIVED REPORTS OF SCREAMING COMING FROM THIS HOUSE. WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
KA-DONG
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB

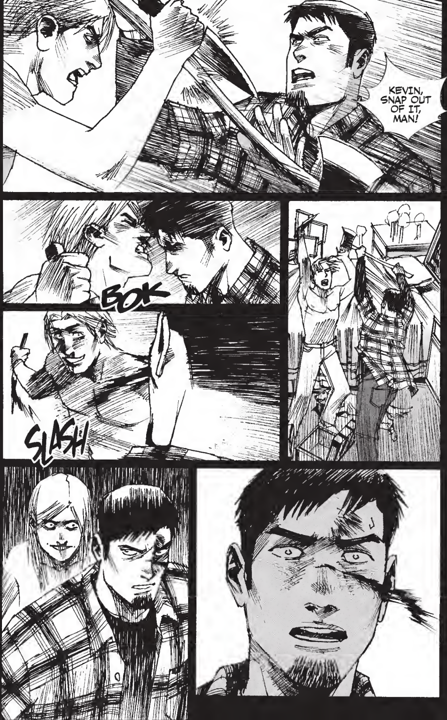

HELLO? MRS. RIVERS?
I THINK SOMEONE'S COMING DOWN.
WHAM
SQUEAK SQUEAK CREEEAK
WHOA!
HEY, THIS AIN'T HALLOWEEN!

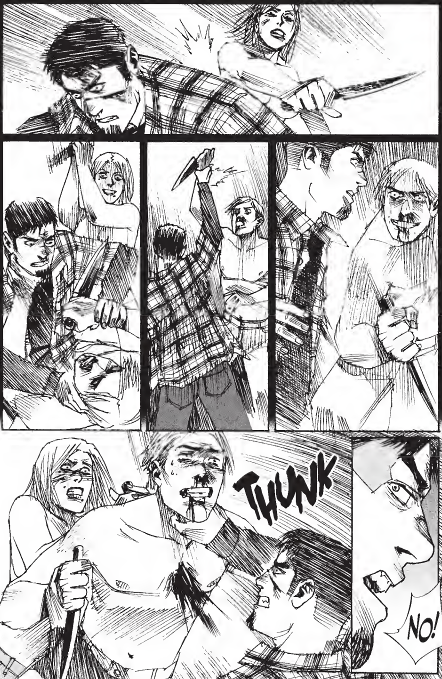

HOLY SHIT!
BLAM
KRUNCH
NOOOO AAAARGH!

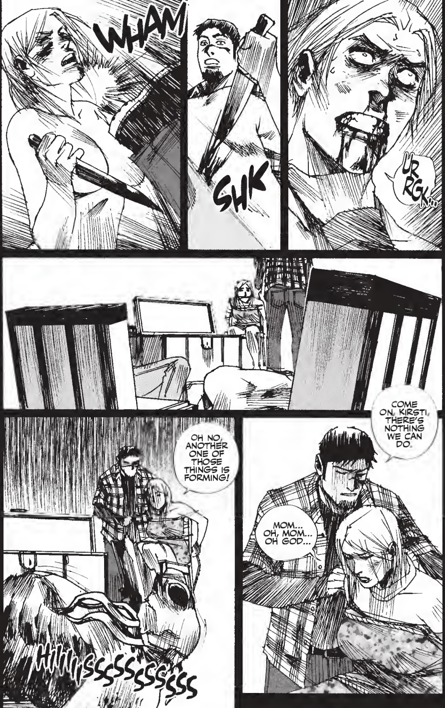

SLUUUUUURPPPPP
I NEVER SAW THIS HAPPEN, BUT I SAW THOSE THINGS COME TO LIFE. I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO SCARED. THEY WERE SO HUGE, SO POWERFUL. THE COPS DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.
OH MY GOD!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
THUMP

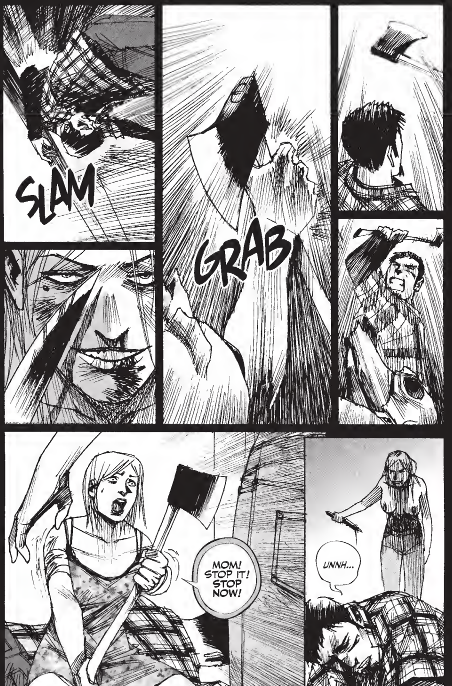

SNAP
AAAA AIIIEEEEE!
OFFICER DOWN, OFFICER DOWN... SEND... BACK-UP...
CRIIISH

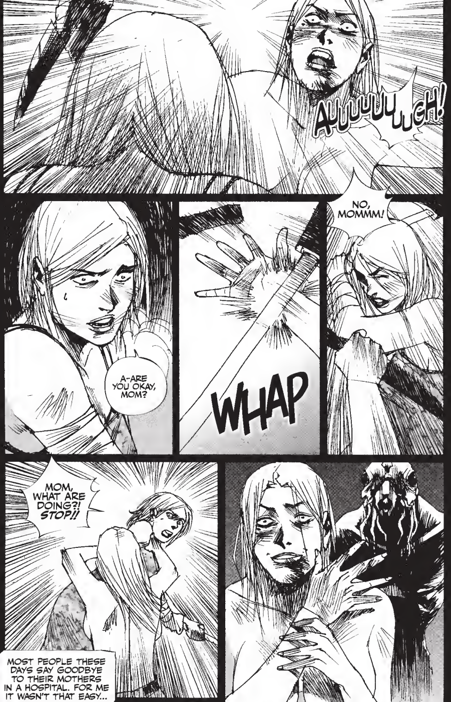

UHH...
AAAAAAAUUUUUUWAAAAA!
UUUUUUUURRRRRGGGGHHHH!

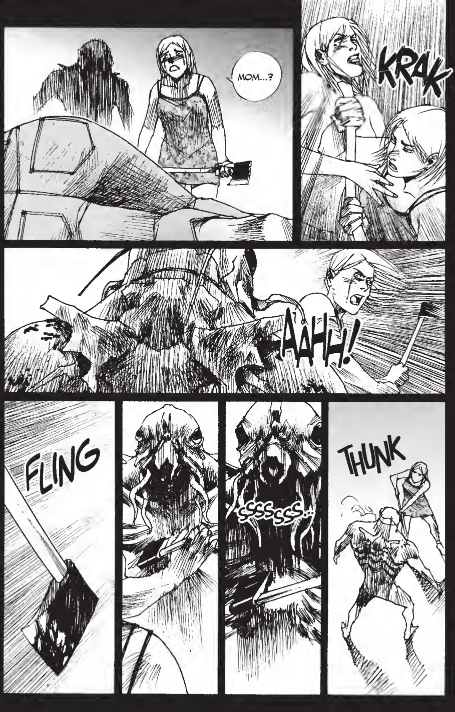

KEVIN, SNAP OUT OF IT, MAN!
BOK
SLASH

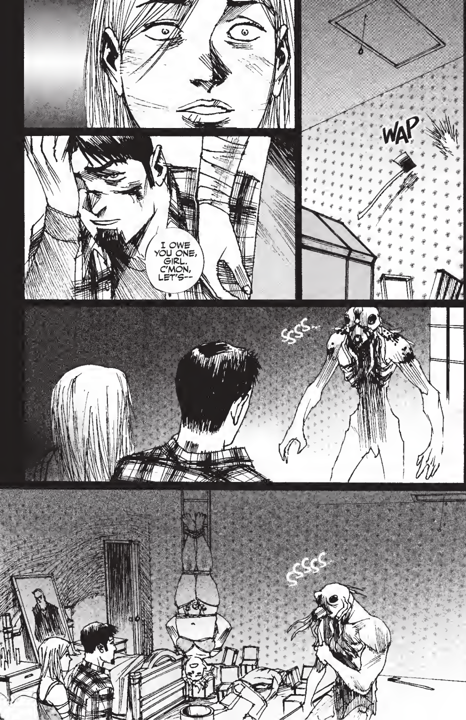

THUNK
NO!

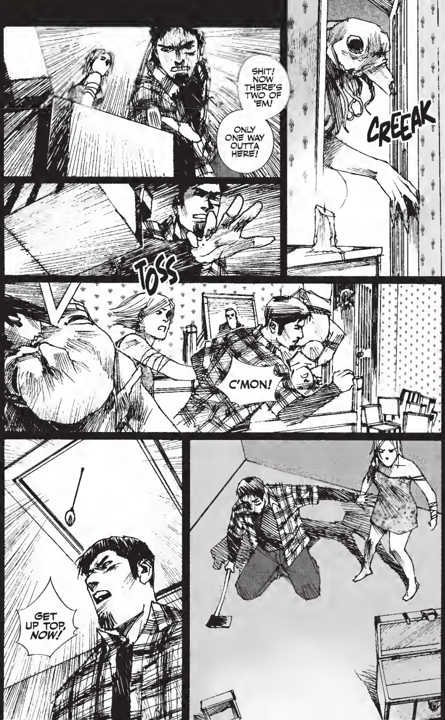

WHAM
SHK
URRGK...
OH NO, ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE THINGS IS FORMING!
HHHHSSSSSSSSSSS
COME ON, KIRSTI, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
MOM... OH, MOM... OH GOD...

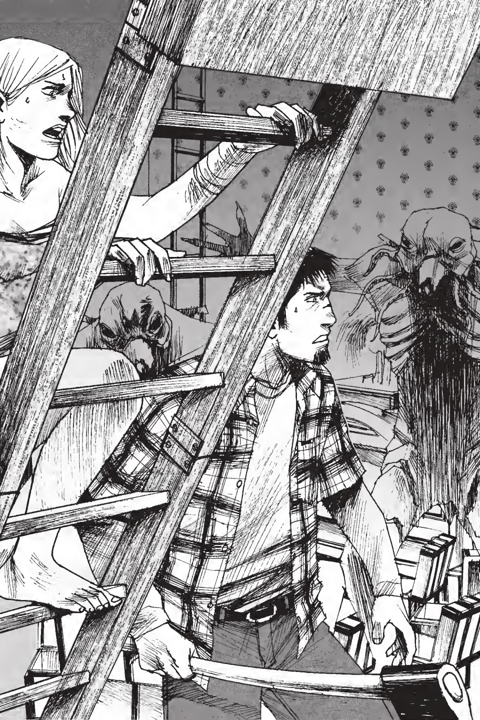

SLAM
GRAB
MOM! STOP IT! STOP NOW!
UNNH...

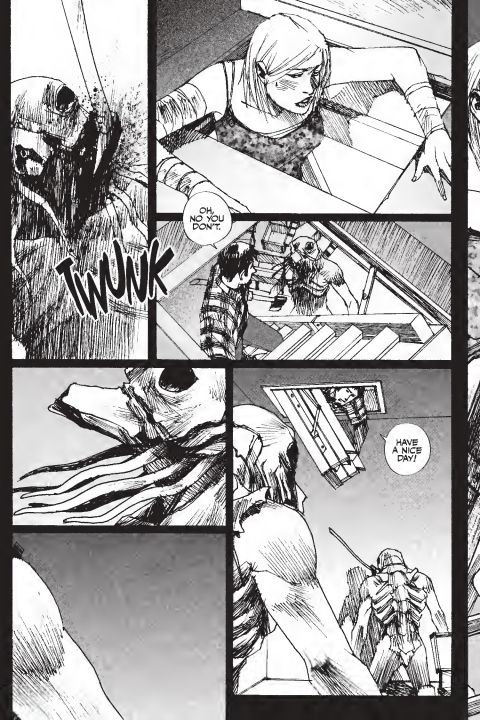

AUUUUUUUGH!
A-ARE YOU OKAY, MOM?
WHAP
NO, MOMMM!
MOM, WHAT ARE DOING?! *STOP!!*
MOST PEOPLE THESE DAYS SAY GOODBYE TO THEIR MOTHERS IN A HOSPITAL. FOR ME IT WASN'T THAT EASY...

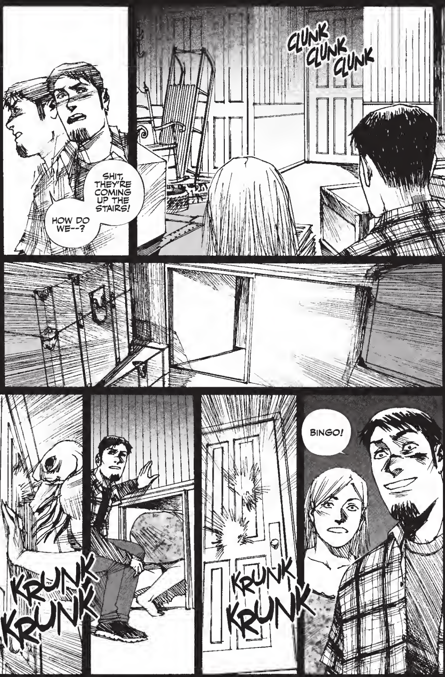

MOM...?
KRAK
AAHH!
FLING
SSSSSS...
THUNK

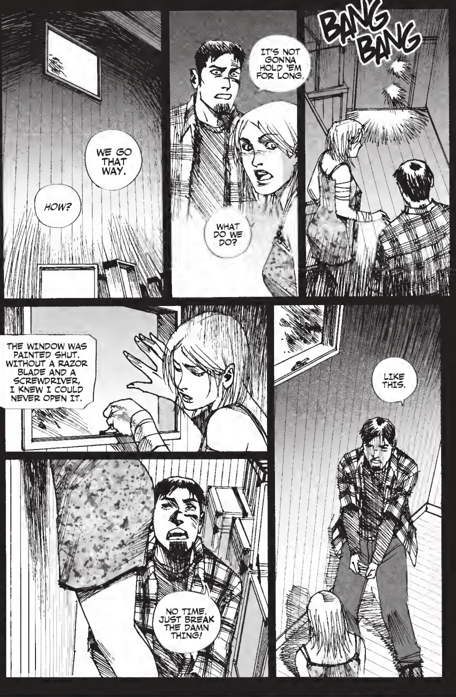

I OWE YOU ONE, GIRL. C'MON, LET'S--
WAP
SSSS...
SSSSS...

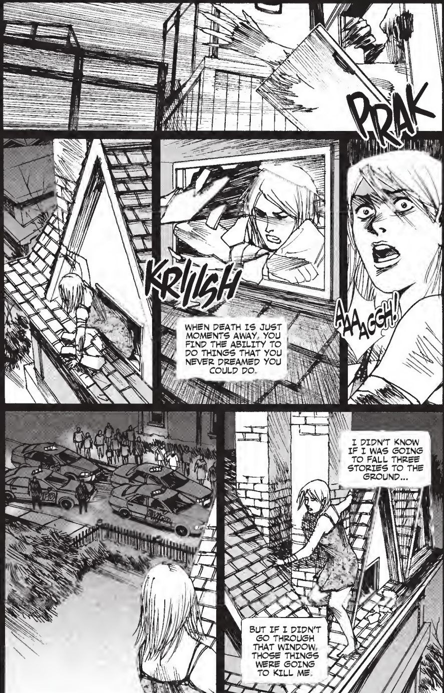

SHIT! NOW THERE'S TWO OF 'EM!
ONLY ONE WAY OUTTA HERE!
CREEEAK
TOSS
C'MON!
GET UP TOP, NOW!

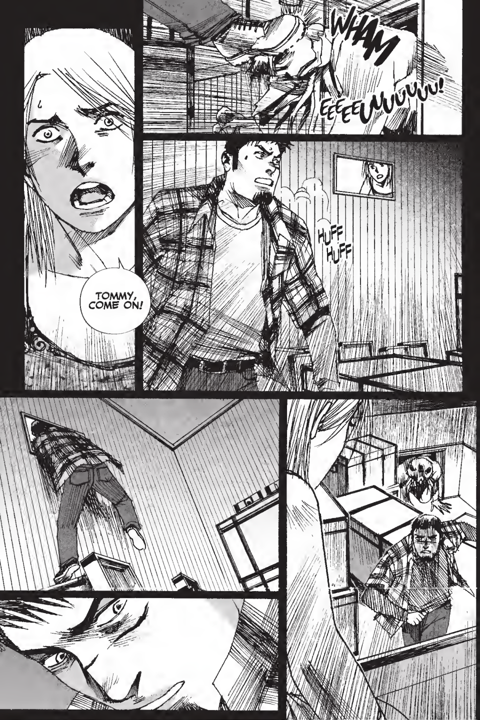


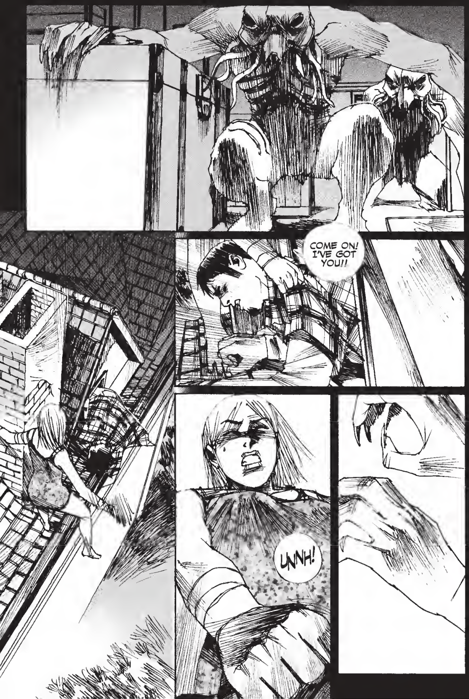

TWUNK
OH, NO YOU DON'T.
HAVE A NICE DAY!

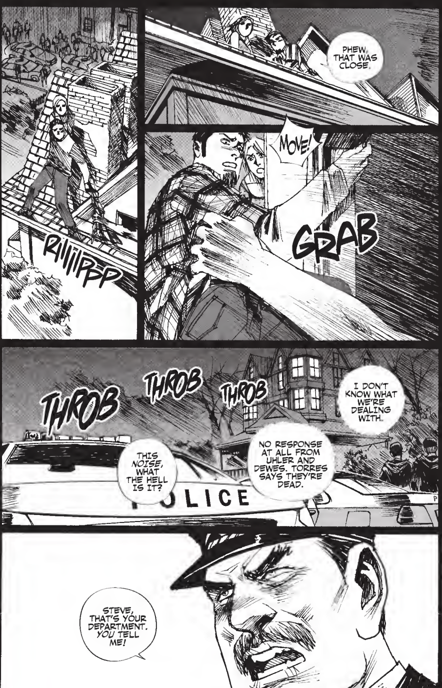

SHIT, THEY'RE COMING UP THE STAIRS!
HOW DO WE--?
CLUNK CLUNK CLUNK
KRUNK KRUNK
KRUNK KRUNK
BINGO!

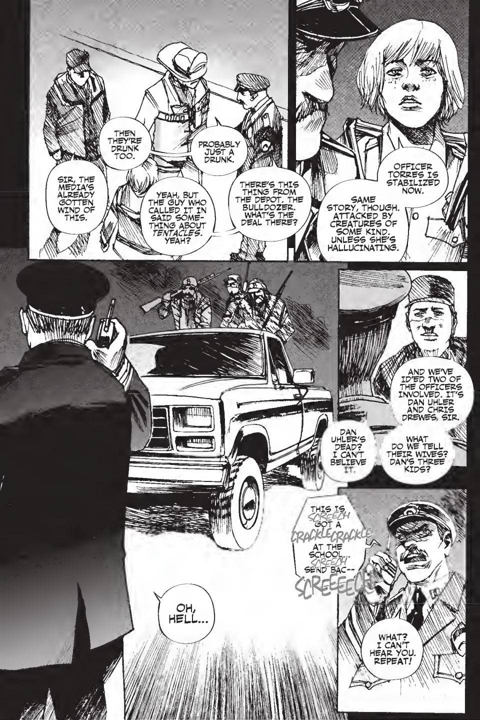

WE GO THAT WAY.
HOW?
IT'S NOT GONNA HOLD 'EM FOR LONG.
WHAT DO WE DO?
BANG BANG
THE WINDOW WAS PAINTED SHUT. WITHOUT A RAZOR BLADE AND A SCREWDRIVER, I KNEW I COULD NEVER OPEN IT.
LIKE THIS.
NO TIME. JUST BREAK THE DAMN THING!

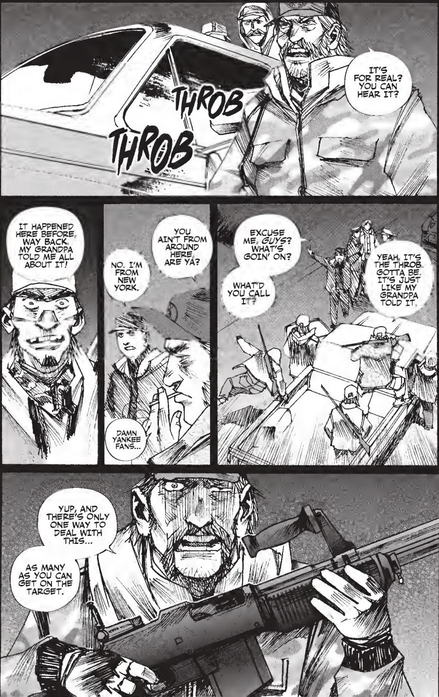

PRAK
KRIIISH
WHEN DEATH IS JUST MOMENTS AWAY, YOU FIND THE ABILITY TO DO THINGS THAT YOU NEVER DREAMED YOU COULD DO.
AAAAGGH!
I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS GOING TO FALL THREE STORIES TO THE GROUND...
BUT IF I DIDN'T GO THROUGH THAT WINDOW, THOSE THINGS WERE GOING TO KILL ME.

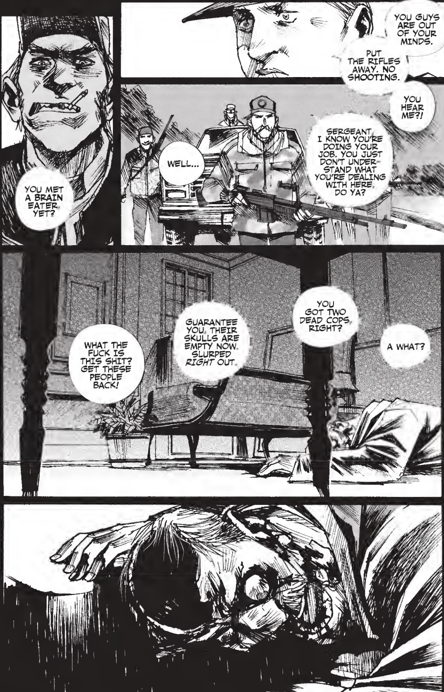

WHAM
EEEEEUUUUUUU!
TOMMY, COME ON!
HUFF HUFF

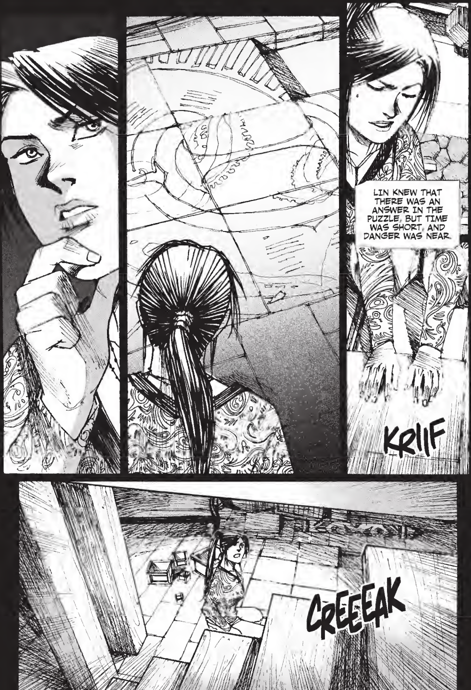

COME ON! I'VE GOT YOU!!
UNNH!

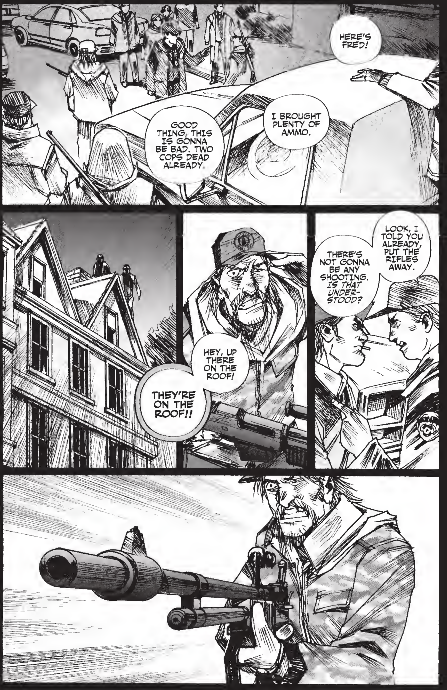

RIIIIPPP
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE.
MOVE!
GRAB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THIS *NOISE*, WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
NO RESPONSE AT ALL FROM UHLER AND DEWES. TORRES SAYS THEY'RE DEAD.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.
POLICE
STEVE, THAT'S YOUR DEPARTMENT. *YOU* TELL ME!

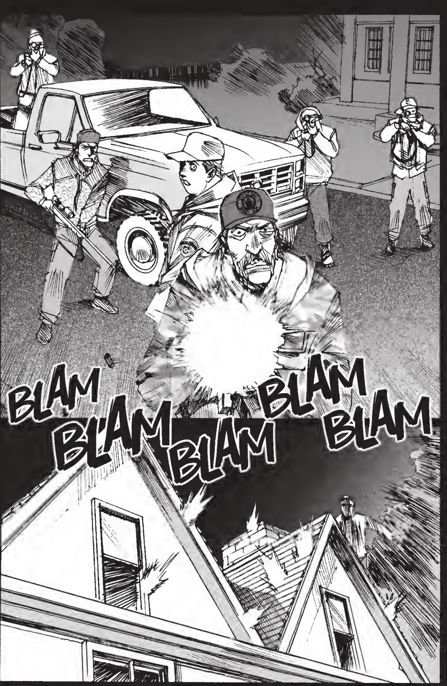

YEAH, BUT THE GUY WHO CALLED IT IN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT *TENTACLES*. YEAH?
PROBABLY JUST A DRUNK.
SIR, THE MEDIA'S ALREADY GOTTEN WIND OF THIS.
THEN THEY'RE DRUNK TOO.
THERE'S THIS THING FROM THE DEPOT. THE BULLDOZER. WHAT'S THE DEAL THERE?
OFFICER TORRES IS STABILIZED NOW.
SAME STORY, THOUGH. ATTACKED BY CREATURES OF SOME KIND. UNLESS SHE'S HALLUCINATING.
AND WE'VE ID'ED TWO OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED. IT'S DAN UHLER AND CHRIS DREWES, SIR.
DAN UHLER'S DEAD? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHAT DO WE TELL THEIR WIVES? DAN'S THREE KIDS?
THIS IS SCREECH GOT A CRACKLE CRACKLE AT THE SCHOOL... SCREECH SEND BAC--
SCREEEECH
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU. REPEAT!
OH, HELL...


THROB
THROB
IT'S FOR REAL? YOU CAN HEAR IT?
IT HAPPENED HERE BEFORE, WAY BACK. MY GRANDPA TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT!
YOU AIN'T FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YA?
NO. I'M FROM NEW YORK.
DAMN YANKEE FANS...
EXCUSE ME, *GUYS*? WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
WHAT'D YOU CALL IT?
YEAH, IT'S THE THROB. GOTTA BE. IT'S JUST LIKE MY GRANDPA TOLD IT.
YUP, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS...
AS MANY AS YOU CAN GET ON THE TARGET.


YOU GUYS ARE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.
PUT THE RIFLES AWAY. NO SHOOTING.
YOU HEAR ME?!
SERGEANT, I KNOW YOU'RE DOING YOUR JOB. YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH HERE, DO YA?
WELL...
YOU MET A BRAIN EATER, YET?
A WHAT?
YOU GOT TWO DEAD COPS, RIGHT?
GUARANTEE YOU, THEIR SKULLS ARE EMPTY NOW. SLURPED *RIGHT* OUT.
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS SHIT? GET THESE PEOPLE BACK!

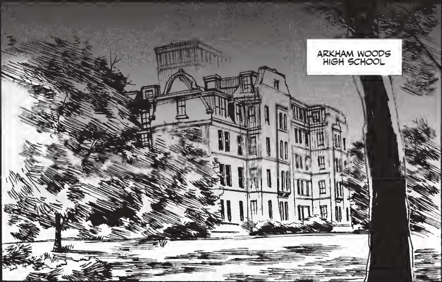

LIN KNEW THAT THERE WAS AN ANSWER IN THE PUZZLE, BUT TIME WAS SHORT, AND DANGER WAS NEAR.
KRIIF
CREEEAK

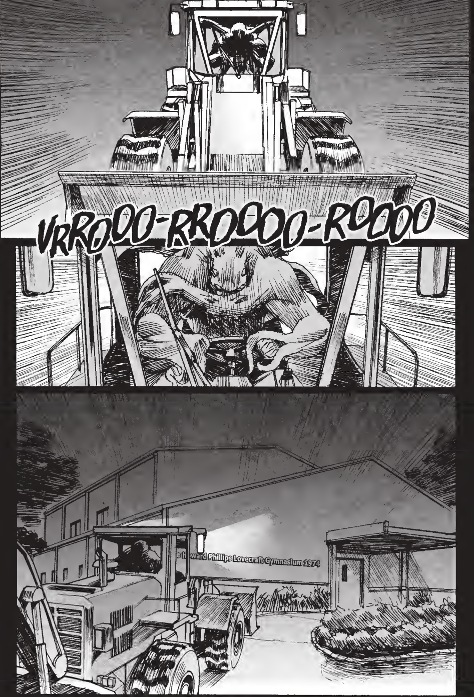

HERE'S FRED!
I BROUGHT PLENTY OF AMMO.
GOOD THING, THIS IS GONNA BE BAD. TWO COPS DEAD ALREADY.
HEY, UP THERE ON THE ROOF!
THEY'RE ON THE ROOF!!
LOOK, I TOLD YOU ALREADY, PUT THE RIFLES AWAY.
THERE'S NOT GONNA BE ANY SHOOTING. *IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?*

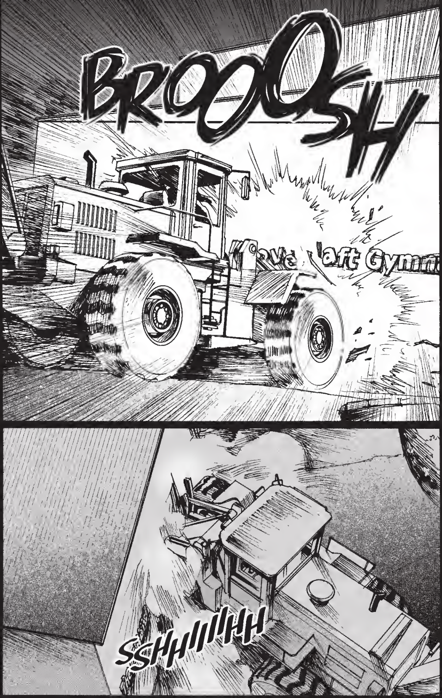

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

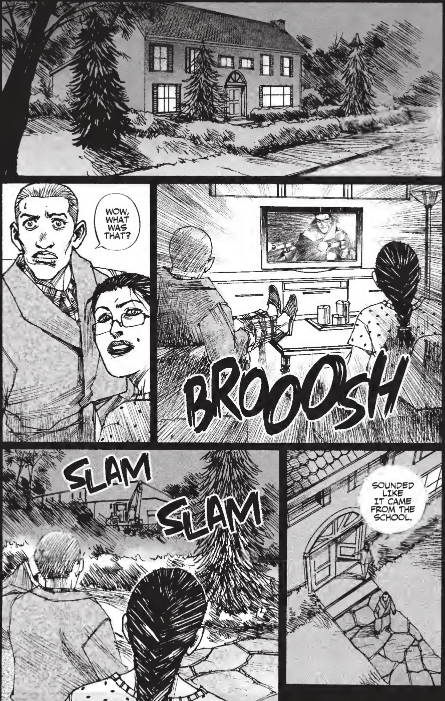
6

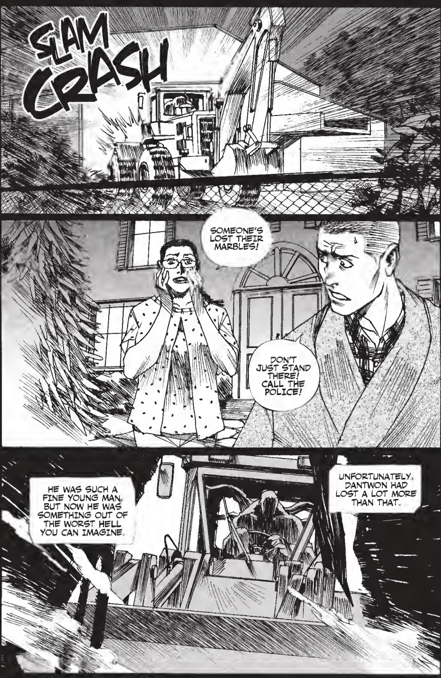
AZATHOTH'S FLUTE

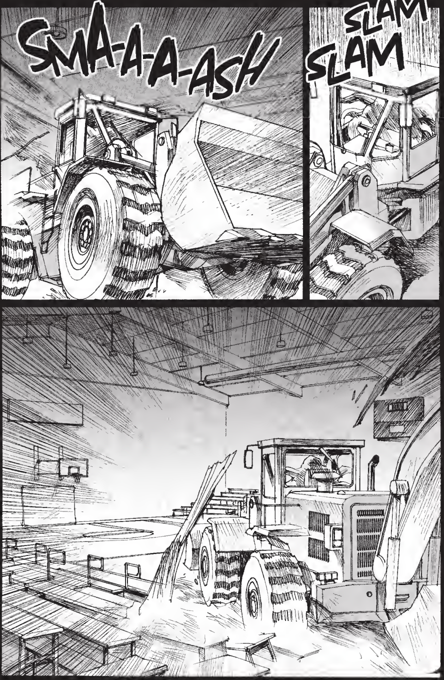

ARKHAM WOODS HIGH SCHOOL

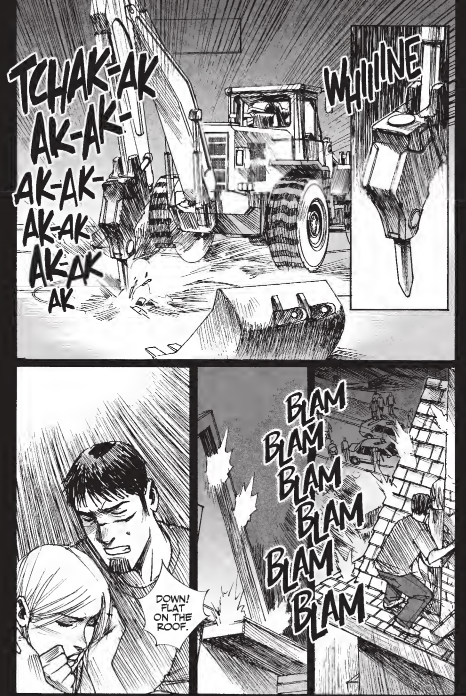

VRROOO-RROOOO-ROOOO
e H ward Phillips Lovecraft Gymnasium 1974

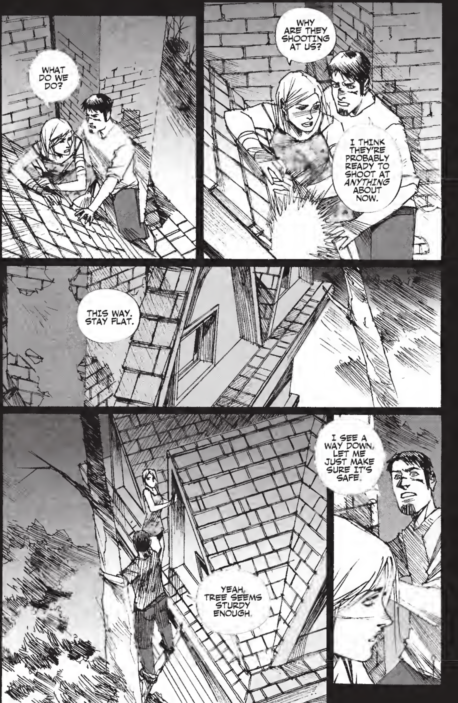

BROOOSH
ove aft Gymn
SSHIIIIHH

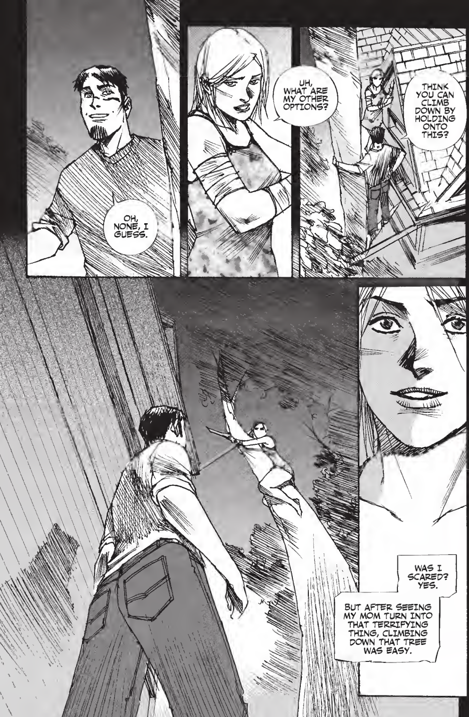

WOW, WHAT WAS THAT?
BROOOSH
SLAM
SLAM
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE SCHOOL.

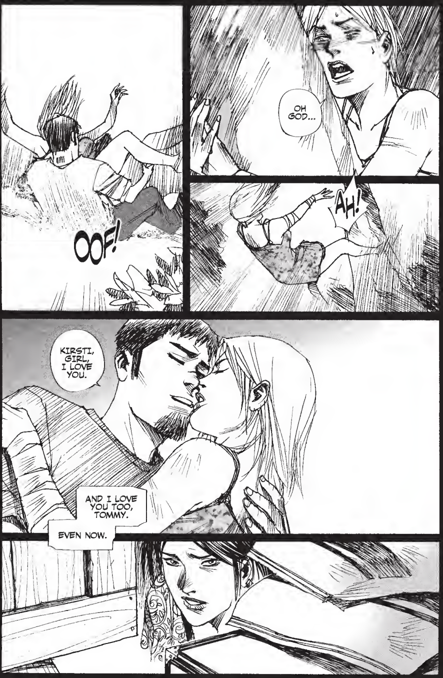

SLAM
CRASH
SOMEONE'S LOST THEIR MARBLES!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! CALL THE POLICE!
HE WAS SUCH A FINE YOUNG MAN. BUT NOW HE WAS SOMETHING OUT OF THE WORST HELL YOU CAN IMAGINE.
UNFORTUNATELY, DANTWON HAD LOST A LOT MORE THAN THAT.

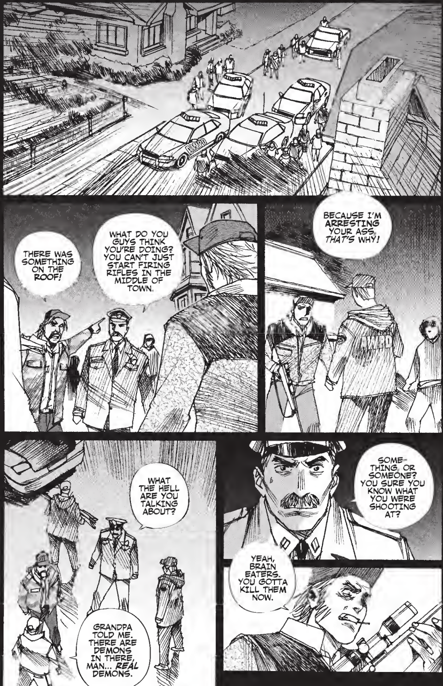

SLAM
SLAM
SMA-A-A-ASH

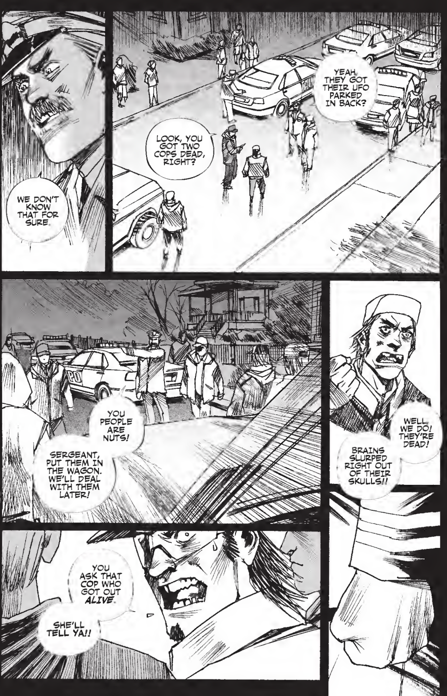

TCHAK-AK
AK-AK-
AK-AK-
AK-AK
AK-AK
AK
WHIIINE
DOWN! FLAT ON THE ROOF.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

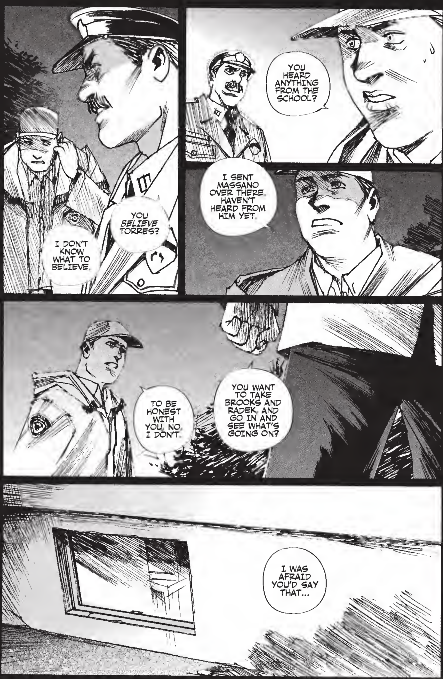

WHAT DO WE DO?
WHY ARE THEY SHOOTING AT US?
I THINK THEY'RE PROBABLY READY TO SHOOT AT *ANYTHING* ABOUT NOW.
THIS WAY. STAY FLAT.
I SEE A WAY DOWN, LET ME JUST MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE.
YEAH, TREE SEEMS STURDY ENOUGH.

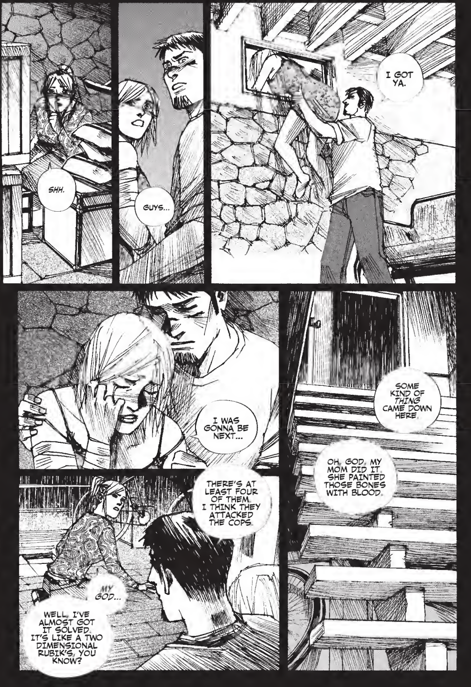

OH, NONE, I GUESS.
UH, WHAT ARE MY OTHER OPTIONS?
THINK YOU CAN CLIMB DOWN BY HOLDING ONTO THIS?
WAS I SCARED? YES.
BUT AFTER SEEING MY MOM TURN INTO THAT TERRIFYING THING, CLIMBING DOWN THAT TREE WAS EASY.

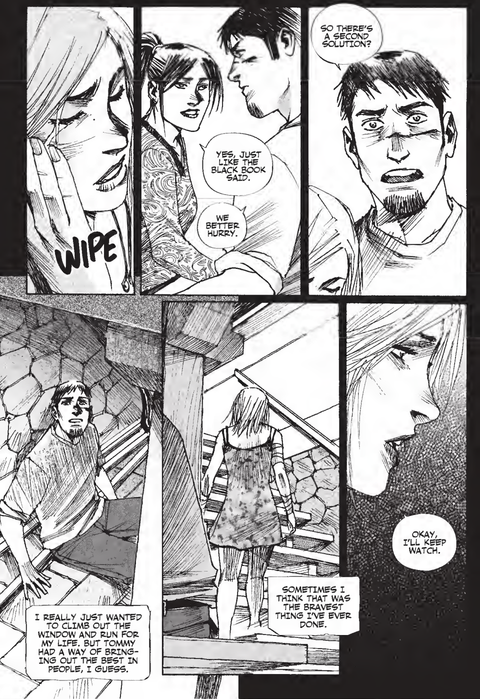

OOF!
OH GOD...
AH!
KIRSTI, GIRL, I LOVE YOU.
AND I LOVE YOU TOO, TOMMY.
EVEN NOW.

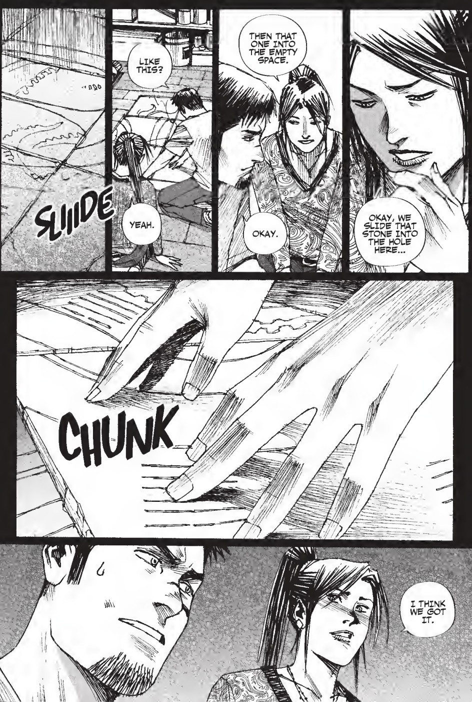

THERE WAS SOMETHING ON THE ROOF!
WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE DOING? YOU CAN'T JUST START FIRING RIFLES IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN.
BECAUSE I'M ARRESTING YOUR ASS, *THAT'S* WHY!
RWPD
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GRANDPA TOLD ME. THERE ARE DEMONS IN THERE, MAN... *REAL* DEMONS.
SOMETHING, OR SOMEONE? YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WERE SHOOTING AT?
YEAH, BRAIN EATERS. YOU GOTTA KILL THEM NOW.

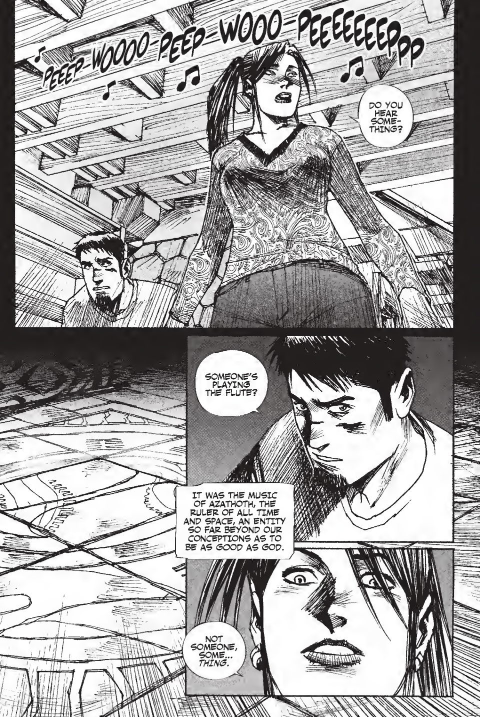

WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
YEAH, THEY GOT THEIR UFO PARKED IN BACK?
LOOK, YOU GOT TWO COPS DEAD, RIGHT?
YOU PEOPLE ARE NUTS!
SERGEANT, PUT THEM IN THE WAGON. WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER!
WELL, WE DO! THEY'RE DEAD!
BRAINS SLURPED RIGHT OUT OF THEIR SKULLS!!
YOU ASK THAT COP WHO GOT OUT *ALIVE*.
SHE'LL TELL YA!!

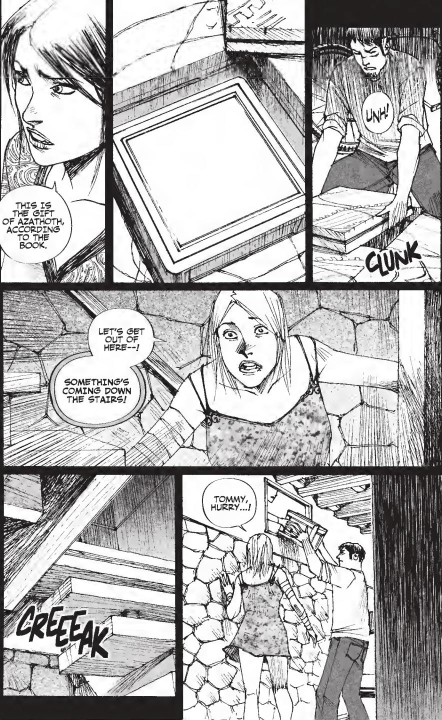

YOU *BELIEVE* TORRES?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE.
YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM THE SCHOOL?
I SENT MASSANO OVER THERE. HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM YET.
YOU WANT TO TAKE BROOKS AND RADEK, AND GO IN AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON?
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, NO, I DON'T.
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT...

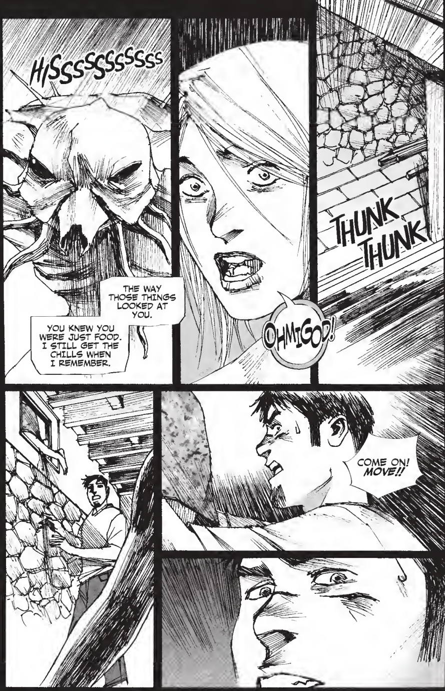

SHH.
GUYS...
I GOT YA.
I WAS GONNA BE NEXT...
SOME KIND OF *THING* CAME DOWN HERE.
OH, GOD, MY MOM DID IT. SHE PAINTED THOSE BONES WITH BLOOD.
THERE'S AT LEAST FOUR OF THEM. I THINK THEY ATTACKED THE COPS.
MY GOD...
WELL, I'VE ALMOST GOT IT SOLVED. IT'S LIKE A TWO DIMENSIONAL RUBIK'S, YOU KNOW?

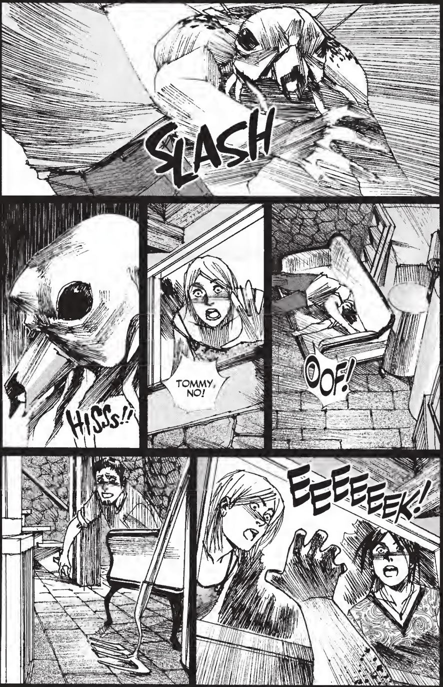

WIPE
YES, JUST LIKE THE BLACK BOOK SAID.
WE BETTER HURRY.
SO THERE'S A SECOND SOLUTION?
I REALLY JUST WANTED TO CLIMB OUT THE WINDOW AND RUN FOR MY LIFE. BUT TOMMY HAD A WAY OF BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE, I GUESS.
SOMETIMES I THINK THAT WAS THE BRAVEST THING I'VE EVER DONE.
OKAY, I'LL KEEP WATCH.

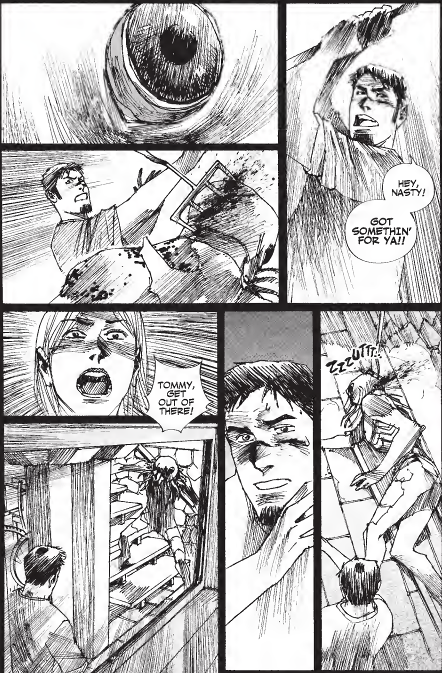

OKAY, WE SLIDE THAT STONE INTO THE HOLE HERE...
THEN THAT ONE INTO THE EMPTY SPACE.
OKAY.
LIKE THIS?
YEAH.
SLIIIDE
CHUNK
I THINK WE GOT IT.

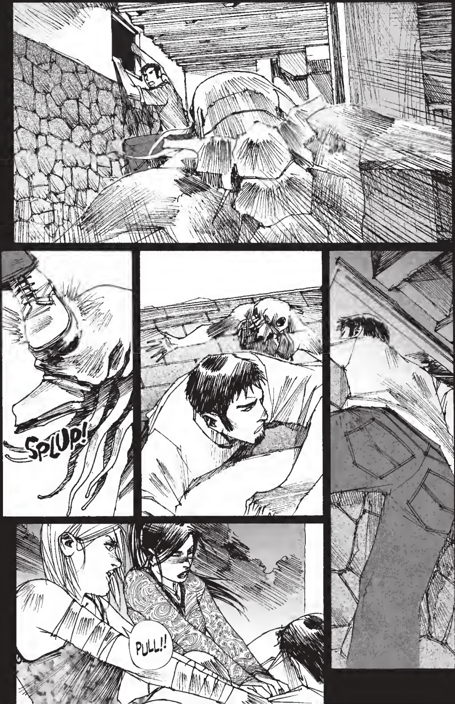

PEEEP-WOOOO-PEEP-WOOO-PEEEEEEEPPP
DO YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
SOMEONE'S PLAYING THE FLUTE?
IT WAS THE MUSIC OF AZATHOTH, THE RULER OF ALL TIME AND SPACE, AN ENTITY SO FAR BEYOND OUR CONCEPTIONS AS TO BE AS GOOD AS GOD.
NOT SOMEONE, SOME... *THING*.

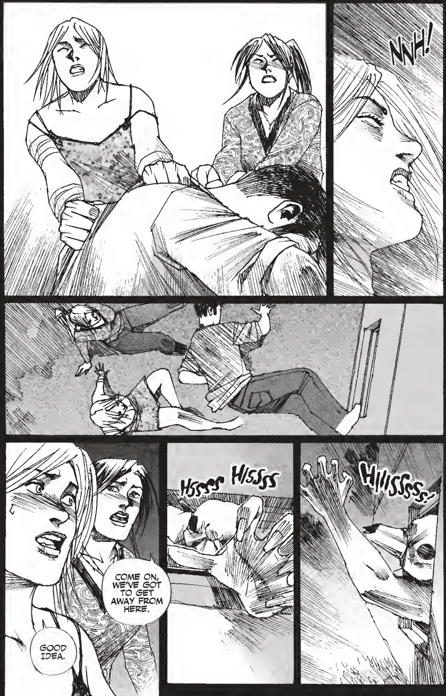

THIS IS THE GIFT OF AZATHOTH, ACCORDING TO THE BOOK.
UNH!
CLUNK
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE--!
SOMETHING'S COMING DOWN THE STAIRS!
CREEEAK
TOMMY, HURRY...!

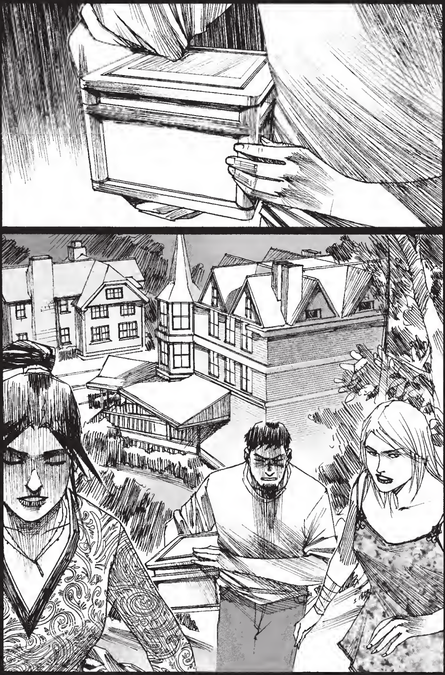

HISSSSSSSSSS
THE WAY THOSE THINGS LOOKED AT YOU.
YOU KNEW YOU WERE JUST FOOD. I STILL GET THE CHILLS WHEN I REMEMBER.
OHMIGOD!
THUNK THUNK
COME ON! *MOVE!!*


SLASH
HISSs!!
TOMMY NO!
OOF!
EEEEEEEK!


HEY, NASTY!
GOT SOMETHIN' FOR YA!!
TOMMY, GET OUT OF THERE!
ZZZUTTT!!

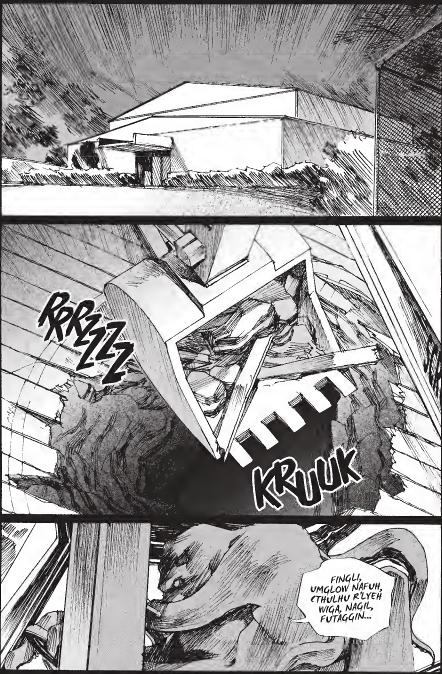

SPLUP!
PULL!!

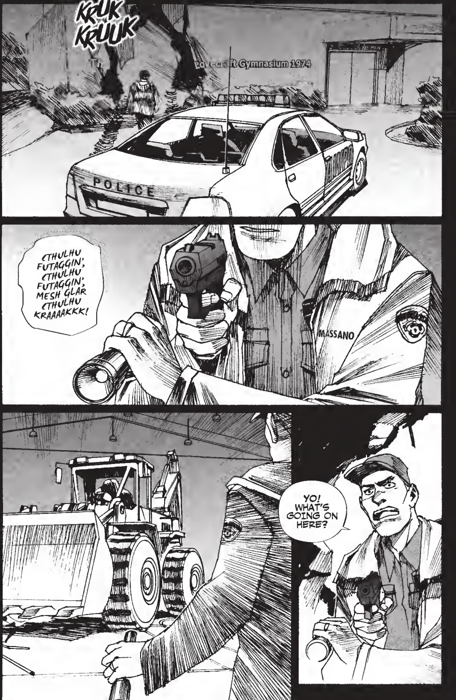

NNH!
COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE.
GOOD IDEA.
HSSSS HISSSS
HIIISSSSS!

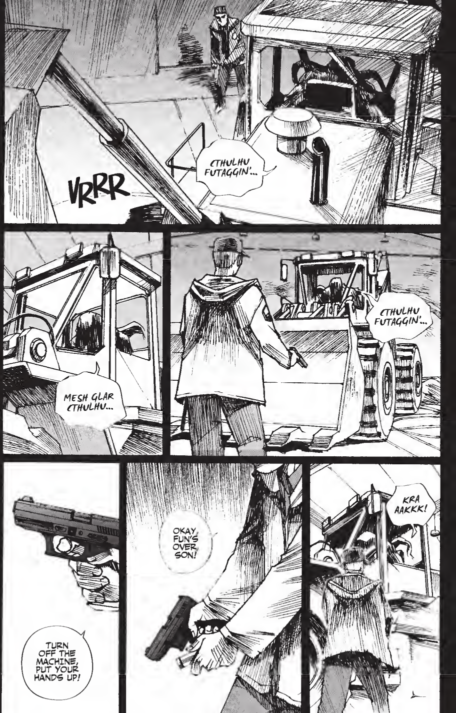


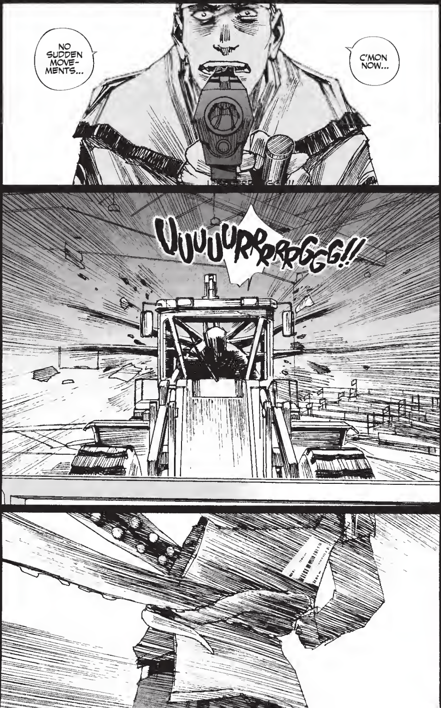
7

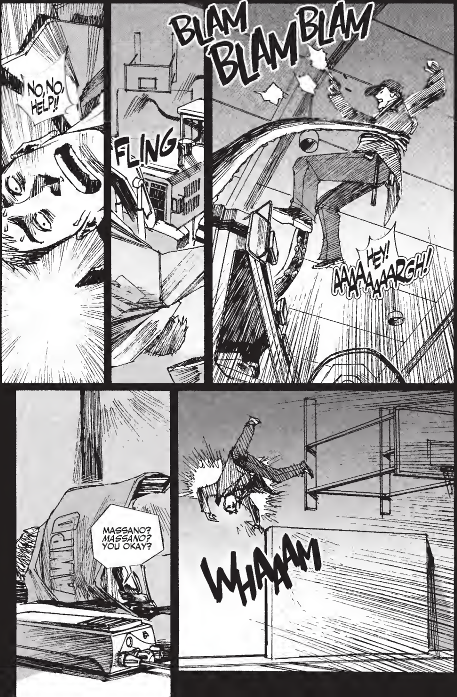
DIGGING THE NODE

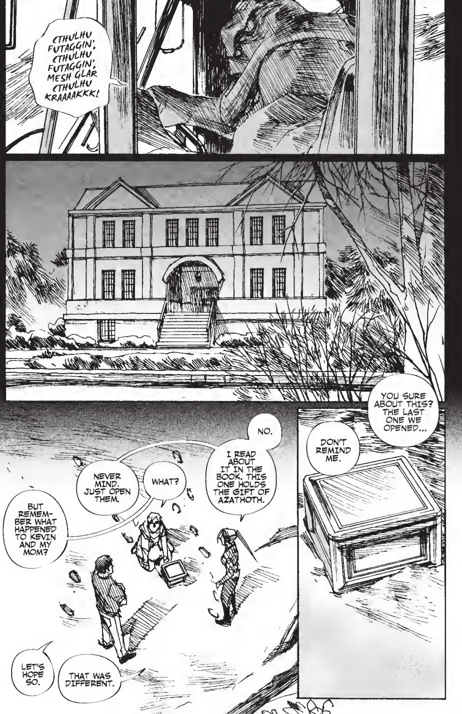

RRRZZZZ
KRUUK
FINGLI, UMGLOW NAFUH, CTHULHU R'LYEH WIGA, NAGIL, FUTAGGIN...

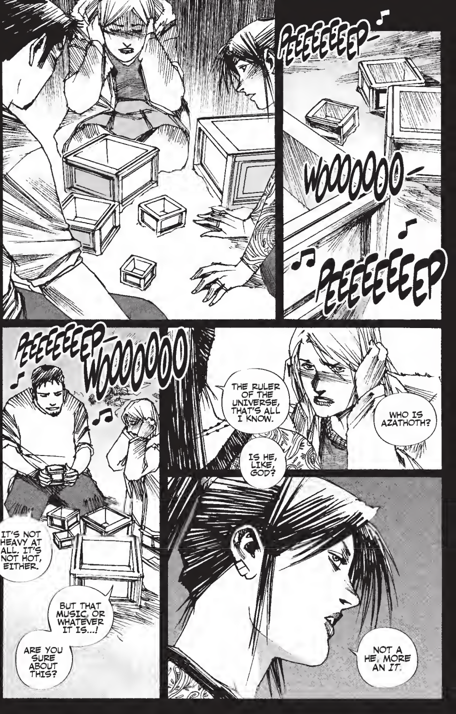

KRUK KRUUK
Lovecraft Gymnasium 1974
POLICE
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN', CTHULHU FUTAGGIN', MESH GLAR CTHULHU KRAAAAKKK!
MASSANO
YO! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

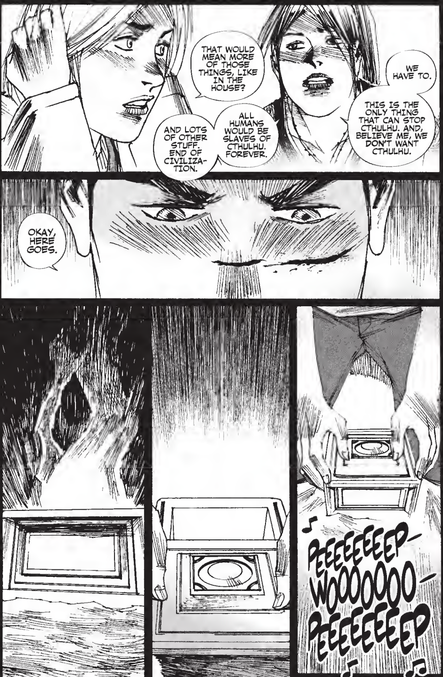

VRRR
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN'...
MESH GLAR CTHULHU...
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN'...
TURN OFF THE MACHINE, PUT YOUR HANDS UP!
OKAY, FUN'S OVER SON!
KRA AAKKK!

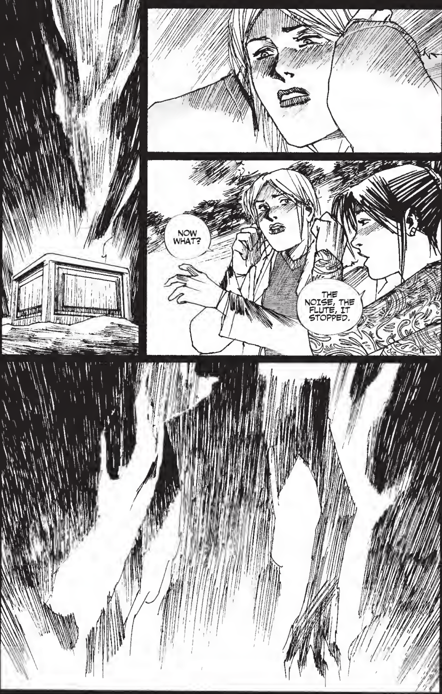

NO SUDDEN MOVE-MENTS...
C'MON NOW...
UUUUURRRRRGGG!!

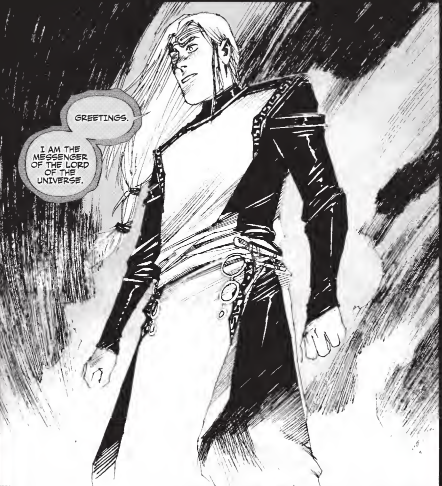

NO, NO, HELP!!
FLING
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HEY!
AAAAAAAARGH!
AWPD
MASSANO? MASSANO? YOU OKAY?
WHAAAM

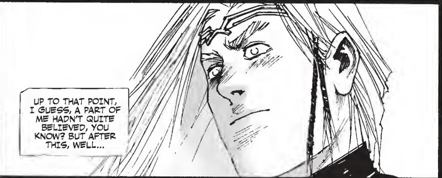

CTHULHU FUTAGGIN', CTHULHU FUTAGGIN', MESH GLAR CTHULHU KRAAAAKKK!
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? THE LAST ONE WE OPENED...
DON'T REMIND ME.
NO.
I READ ABOUT IT IN THE BOOK. THIS ONE HOLDS THE GIFT OF AZATHOTH.
WHAT?
NEVER MIND. JUST OPEN THEM.
BUT REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO KEVIN AND MY MOM?
THAT WAS DIFFERENT.
LET'S HOPE SO.

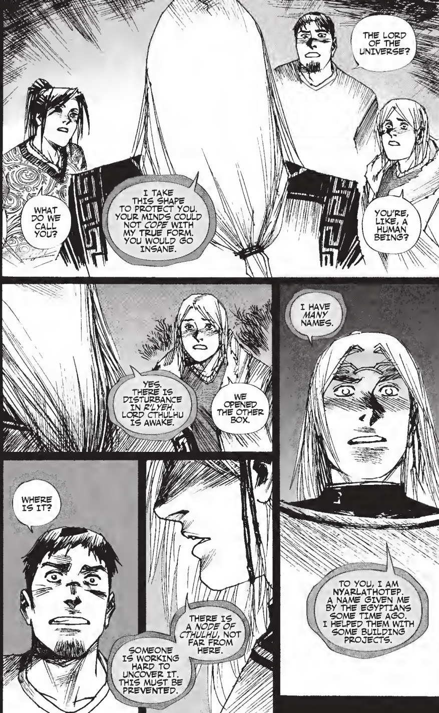

PEEEEEEEEP
WOOOOOO
PEEEEEEEEP
PEEEEEEEP
WOOOOOOO
IT'S NOT HEAVY AT ALL. IT'S NOT HOT, EITHER.
BUT THAT MUSIC, OR WHATEVER IT IS...!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
WHO IS AZATHOTH?
THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
IS HE, LIKE, GOD?
NOT A HE, MORE AN *IT*.

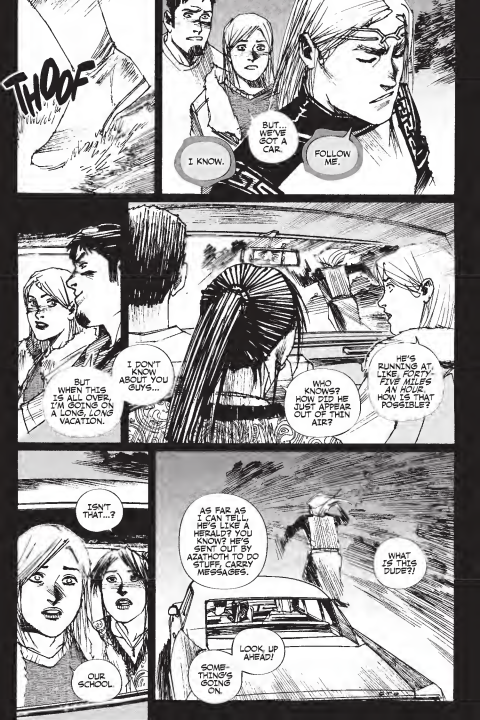

THAT WOULD MEAN MORE OF THOSE THINGS, LIKE IN THE HOUSE?
AND LOTS OF OTHER STUFF. END OF CIVILIZATION.
ALL HUMANS WOULD BE SLAVES OF CTHULHU. FOREVER.
WE HAVE TO.
THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP CTHULHU. AND, BELIEVE ME, WE DON'T WANT CTHULHU.
OKAY, HERE GOES.
PEEEEEEEP- WOOOOOO- PEEEEEEEP


NOW WHAT?
THE NOISE, THE FLUTE, IT STOPPED.


GREETINGS.
I AM THE MESSENGER OF THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.

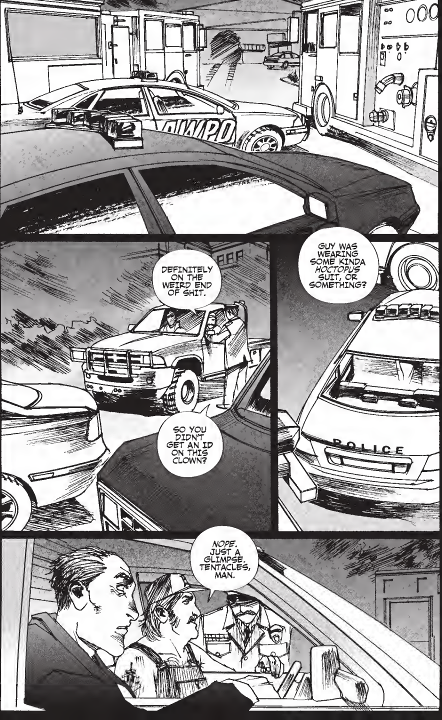

UP TO THAT POINT, I GUESS, A PART OF ME HADN'T QUITE BELIEVED, YOU KNOW? BUT AFTER THIS, WELL...

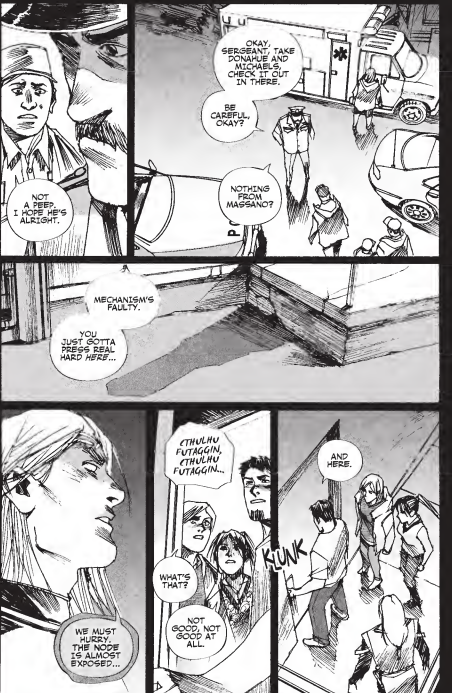

THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE?
YOU'RE, LIKE, A HUMAN BEING?
I TAKE THIS SHAPE TO PROTECT YOU. YOUR MINDS COULD NOT *COPE* WITH MY TRUE FORM. YOU WOULD GO INSANE.
WHAT DO WE CALL YOU?
I HAVE *MANY* NAMES.
TO YOU, I AM NYARLATHOTEP. A NAME GIVEN ME BY THE EGYPTIANS SOME TIME AGO. I HELPED THEM WITH SOME BUILDING PROJECTS.
WE OPENED THE OTHER BOX.
YES. THERE IS DISTURBANCE IN *R'LYEH*. LORD CTHULHU IS AWAKE.
WHERE IS IT?
THERE IS A *NODE OF CTHULHU*, NOT FAR FROM HERE.
SOMEONE IS WORKING HARD TO UNCOVER IT. THIS MUST BE PREVENTED.

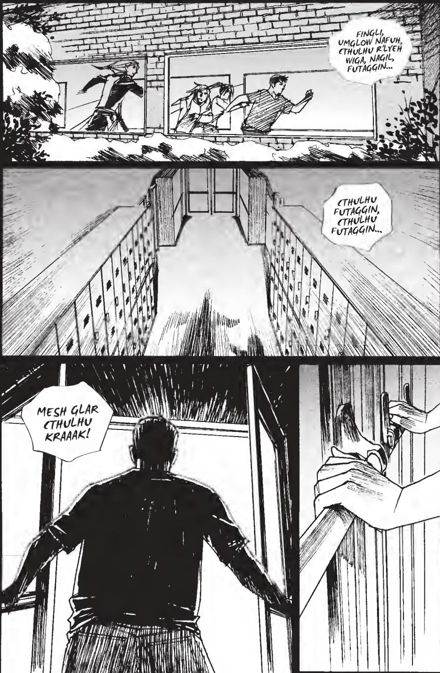

THOOF
FOLLOW ME.
BUT... WE'VE GOT A CAR.
I KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS...
BUT WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'M GOING ON A LONG, *LONG* VACATION.
HE'S RUNNING AT, LIKE, *FORTY-FIVE MILES AN HOUR.* HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
WHO KNOWS? HOW DID HE JUST APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR?
WHAT *IS* THIS DUDE?!
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, HE'S LIKE A HERALD? YOU KNOW? HE'S SENT OUT BY AZATHOTH TO DO STUFF, CARRY MESSAGES.
LOOK UP AHEAD!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON.
ISN'T THAT...?
OUR SCHOOL.

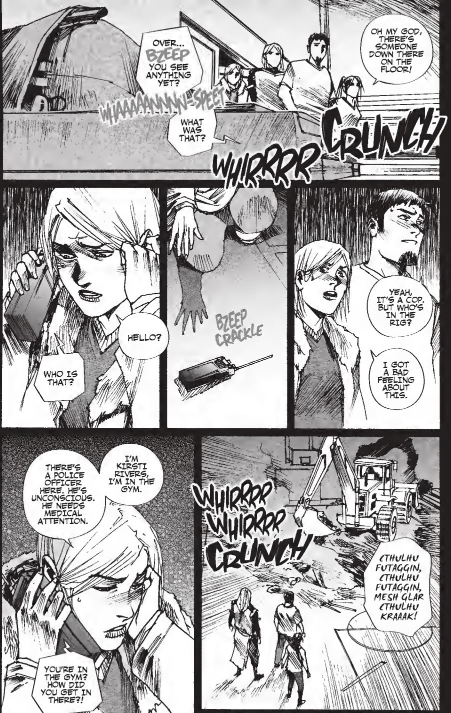
8

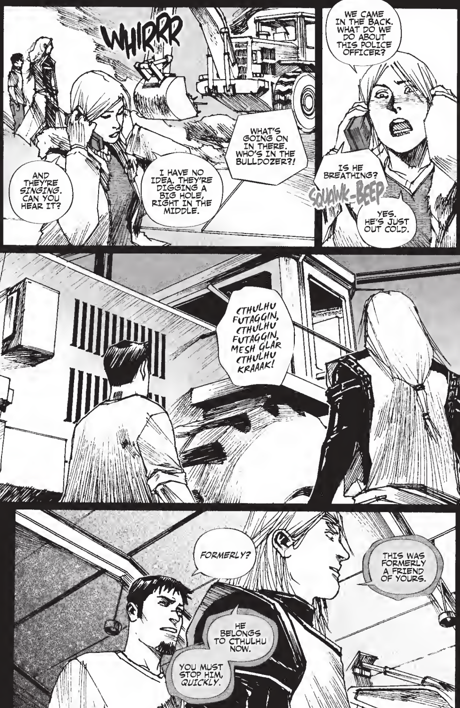
THE LORD OF THE EARTH

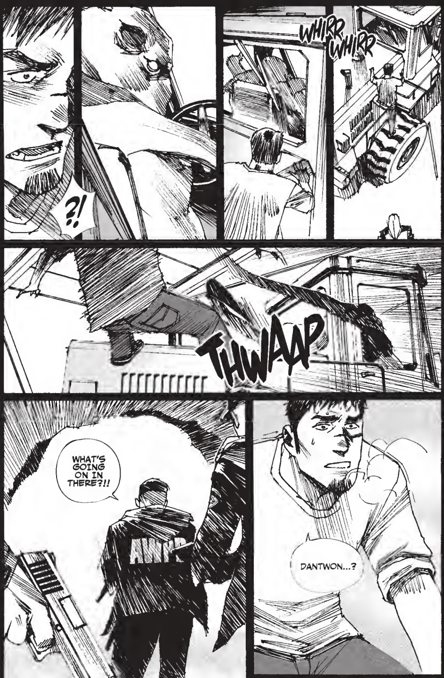

AWPD
DEFINITELY ON THE WEIRD END OF SHIT.
SO YOU DIDN'T GET AN ID ON THIS CLOWN?
GUY WAS WEARING SOME KINDA *HOCTOPUS* SUIT, OR SOMETHING?
POLICE
NOPE. JUST A GLIMPSE. TENTACLES, MAN.

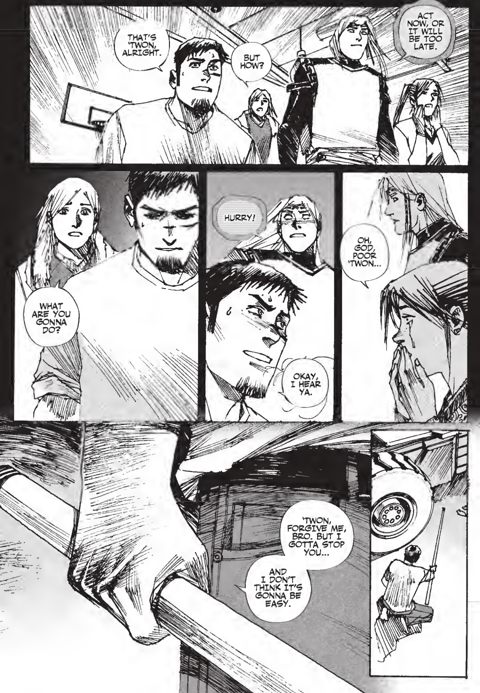

NOT A PEEP. I HOPE HE'S ALRIGHT.
OKAY, SERGEANT, TAKE DONAHUE AND MICHAELS, CHECK IT OUT IN THERE.
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
NOTHING FROM MASSANO?
PO
MECHANISM'S FAULTY.
YOU JUST GOTTA PRESS REAL HARD *HERE*...
WE MUST HURRY. THE NODE IS ALMOST EXPOSED...
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN...
KLUNK
WHAT'S THAT?
NOT GOOD, NOT GOOD AT ALL.
AND HERE.

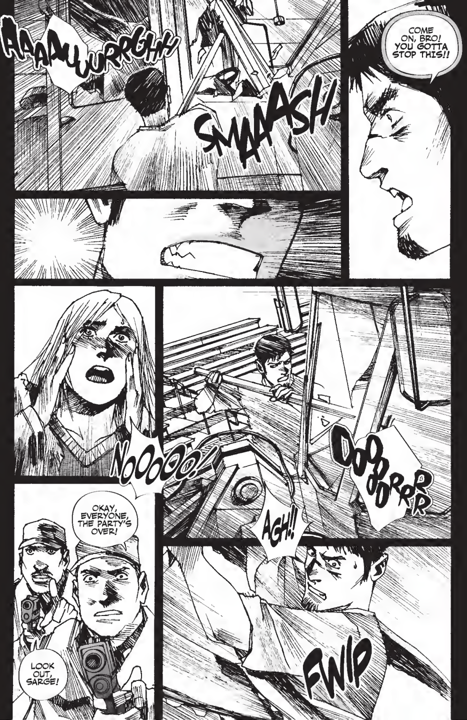

FINGLI, UMGLOW NAFUH, CTHULHU R'LYEH WIGA, NAGIL, FUTAGGIN...
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN...
MESH GLAR CTHULHU KRAAAK!

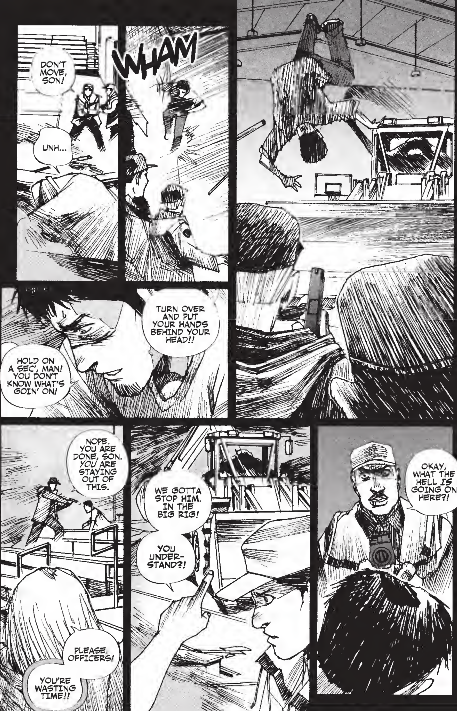

OVER... BZEEP YOU SEE ANYTHING YET?
WHAAAAANNNN-SPEET
WHAT WAS THAT?
OH MY GOD, THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN THERE ON THE FLOOR!
WHIRRRR
CRUNCH
HELLO?
WHO IS THAT?
BZEEP CRACKLE
YEAH, IT'S A COP. BUT WHO'S IN THE RIG?
I GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I'M KIRSTI RIVERS, I'M IN THE GYM.
THERE'S A POLICE OFFICER HERE. HE'S UNCONSCIOUS. HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION.
YOU'RE IN THE GYM? HOW DID YOU GET IN THERE?!
WHIRRRR WHIRRRR CRUNCH
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, MESH GLAR CTHULHU KRAAAK!

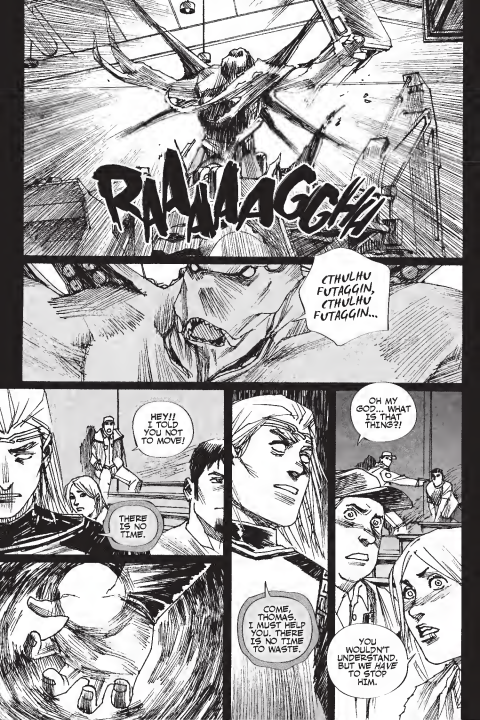

WHIRRR
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE. WHO'S IN THE BULLDOZER?!
I HAVE NO IDEA. THEY'RE DIGGING A BIG HOLE, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.
AND THEY'RE *SINGING*. CAN YOU HEAR IT?
WE CAME IN THE BACK. WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THIS POLICE OFFICER?
IS HE BREATHING?
SQUAWK-BEEP
YES. HE'S JUST OUT COLD.
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, MESH GLAR CTHULHU KRAAAK!
THIS WAS FORMERLY A FRIEND OF YOURS.
FORMERLY?
HE BELONGS TO CTHULHU NOW.
YOU MUST STOP HIM, *QUICKLY*.

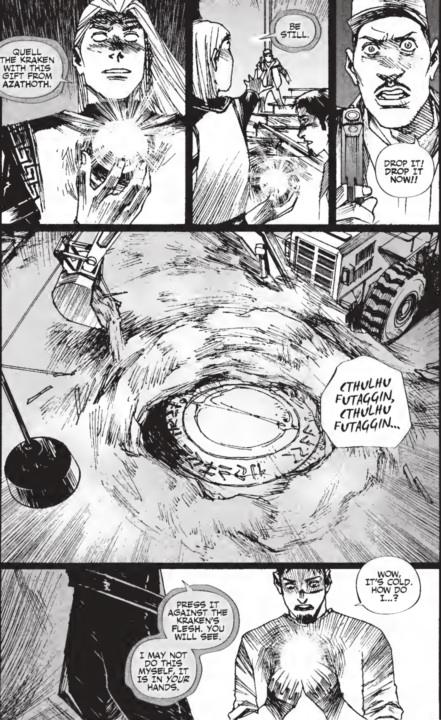

?!
WHIRR WHIRR
THWAAP
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?!!
AMP
DANTWON...?

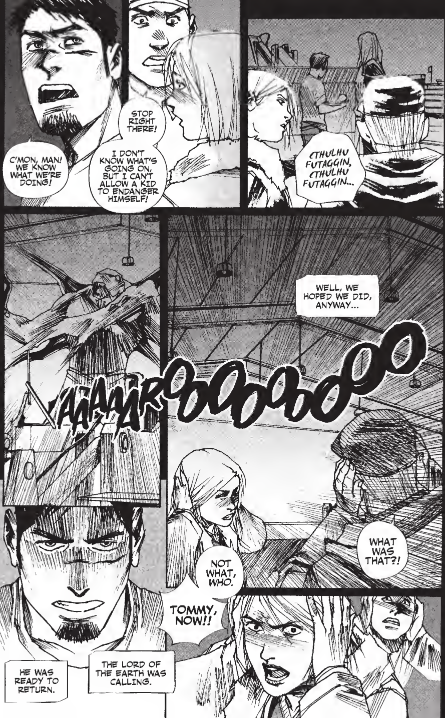

THAT'S 'TWON, ALRIGHT.
BUT HOW?
ACT NOW, OR IT WILL BE TOO LATE.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
HURRY!
OKAY, I HEAR YA.
OH, GOD, POOR 'TWON...
'TWON, FORGIVE ME, BRO. BUT I GOTTA STOP YOU...
AND I DON'T THINK IT'S GONNA BE EASY.

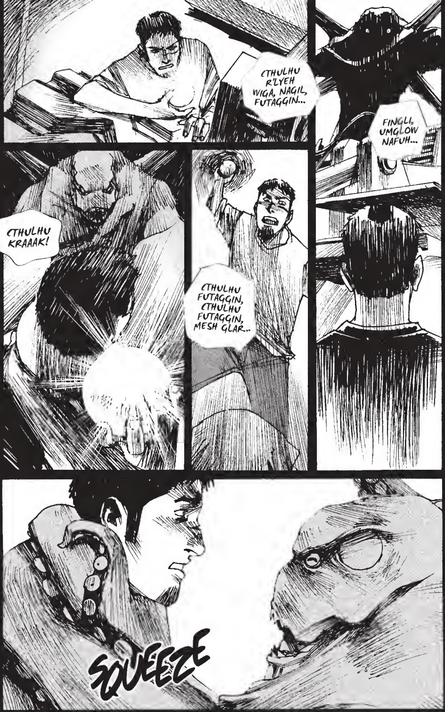

AAAAUUURRGHH
SMAAASH
COME ON, BRO! YOU GOTTA STOP THIS!!
NOOOOO!
DOOOOORRRR
AGH!!
OKAY, EVERYONE, THE PARTY'S OVER!
LOOK OUT, SARGE!
FWIP

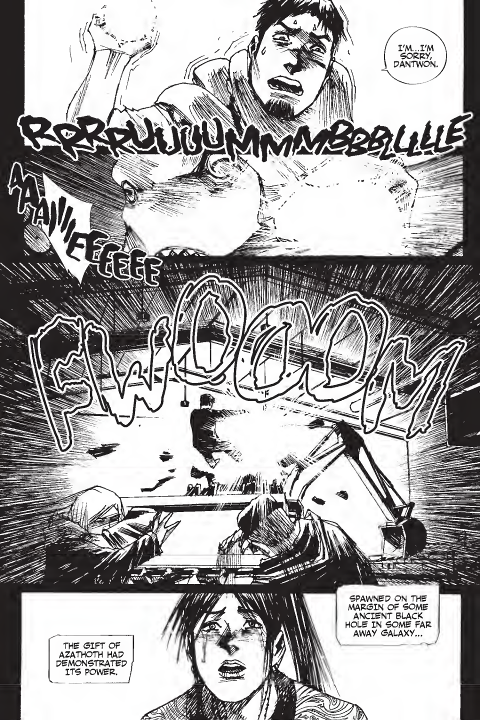

DON'T MOVE, SON!
UNH...
WHAM
TURN OVER AND PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!!
HOLD ON A SEC', MAN! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON!
NOPE. YOU ARE DONE, SON. *YOU* ARE STAYING OUT OF THIS.
PLEASE, OFFICERS!
YOU'RE WASTING TIME!!
WE GOTTA STOP HIM. IN THE BIG RIG!
YOU UNDER-STAND?!
OKAY, WHAT THE HELL *IS* GOING ON HERE?!

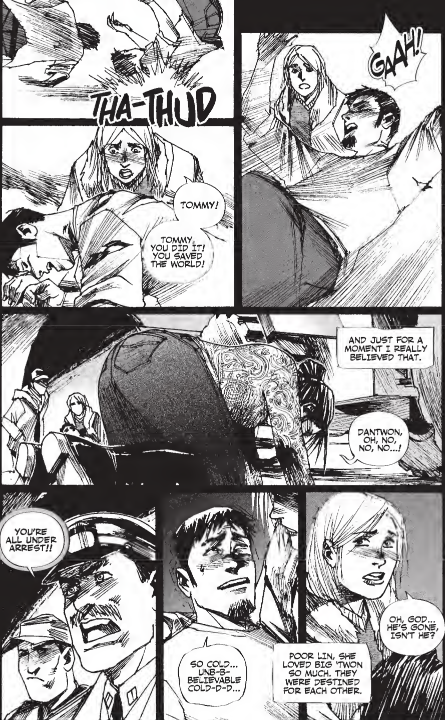

RAAAAAGGH!
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN...
HEY!! I TOLD YOU NOT TO MOVE!
THERE IS NO TIME.
COME, THOMAS. I MUST HELP YOU. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE.
OH MY GOD... WHAT IS THAT THING?!
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. BUT WE *HAVE* TO STOP HIM.

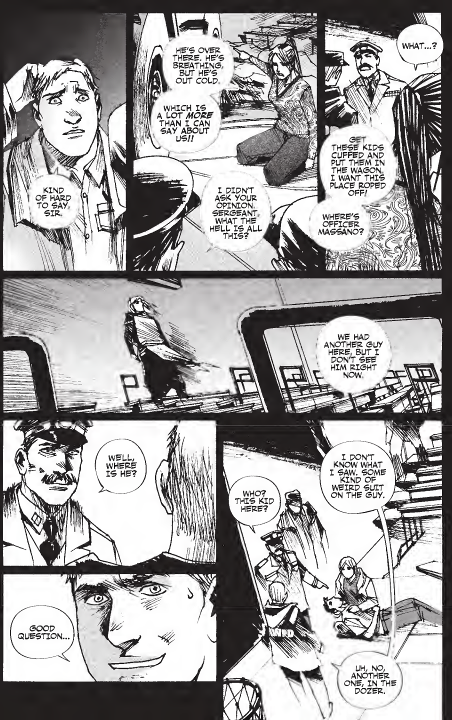

QUELL THE KRAKEN WITH THIS GIFT FROM **AZATHOTH.**
BE STILL.
DROP IT! DROP IT NOW!!
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN...
WOW, IT'S COLD. HOW DO I...?
PRESS IT AGAINST THE KRAKEN'S FLESH. YOU WILL SEE.
I MAY NOT DO THIS MYSELF, IT IS IN *YOUR* HANDS.

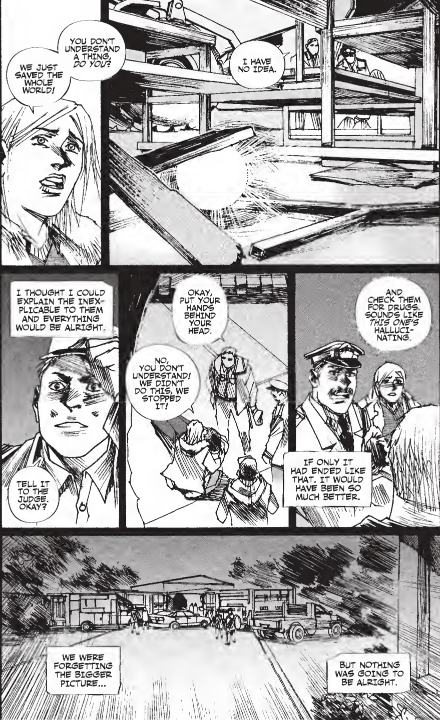

STOP RIGHT THERE!
C'MON, MAN! WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT I CAN'T ALLOW A KID TO ENDANGER HIMSELF!
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN...
WELL, WE HOPED WE DID, ANYWAY...
AAAAROOOOOOOOO
WHAT WAS THAT?!
NOT WHAT, WHO.
TOMMY, NOW!!
HE WAS READY TO RETURN.
THE LORD OF THE EARTH WAS CALLING.

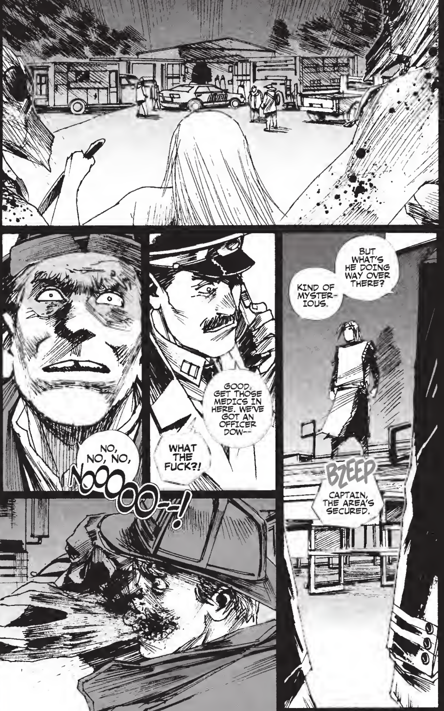

FINGLI, UMGLOW NAFUH...
CTHULHU R'LYEH WIGA, NAGIL, FUTAGGIN...
CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, CTHULHU FUTAGGIN, MESH GLAR..
CTHULHU KRAAAK!
SQUEEZE

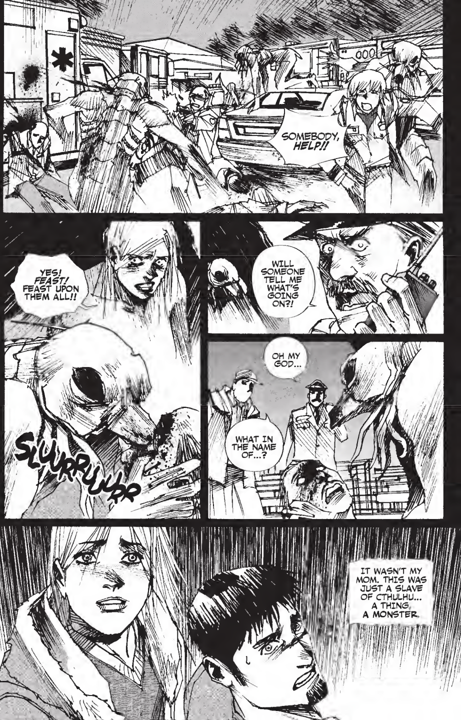

I'M...I'M SORRY, DANTWON.
RRRRUUUUUMMMMBBBLLLLE
AAAAIIIIEEEEEE
FWOOOOM
SPAWNED ON THE MARGIN OF SOME ANCIENT BLACK HOLE IN SOME FAR AWAY GALAXY...
THE GIFT OF AZATHOTH HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS POWER.

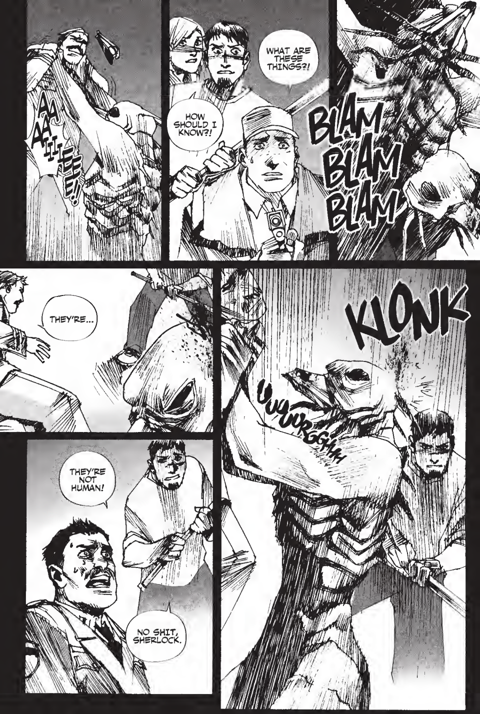

THA-THUD
TOMMY!
TOMMY, YOU DID IT! YOU SAVED THE WORLD!
GAAH!
AND JUST FOR A MOMENT I REALLY BELIEVED THAT.
DANTWON, OH, NO, NO, NO...!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!!
SO COLD... UNB-B-BELIEVABLE COLD-D-D...
POOR LIN, SHE LOVED BIG 'TWON SO MUCH. THEY WERE DESTINED FOR EACH OTHER.
OH, GOD... HE'S GONE, ISN'T HE?

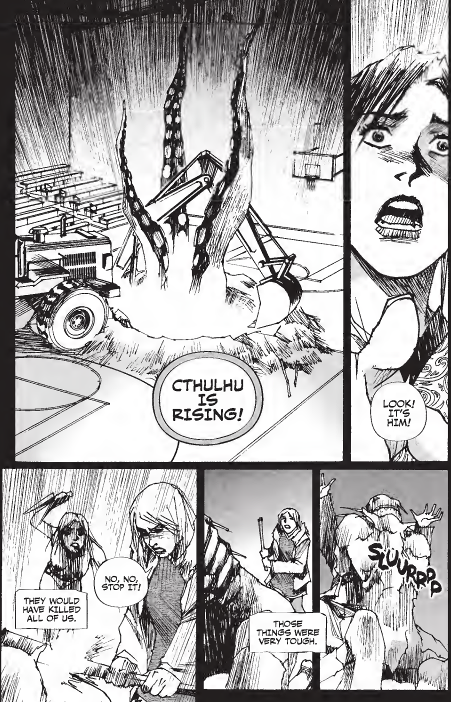

KIND OF HARD TO SAY, SIR.
HE'S OVER THERE. HE'S BREATHING, BUT HE'S OUT COLD.
WHICH IS A LOT *MORE* THAN I CAN SAY ABOUT US!!
I DIDN'T ASK YOUR OPINION. SERGEANT, WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THIS?
WHAT...?
GET THESE KIDS CUFFED AND PUT THEM IN THE WAGON. I WANT THIS PLACE ROPED OFF!
WHERE'S OFFICER MASSANO?
WE HAD ANOTHER GUY HERE, BUT I DON'T SEE HIM RIGHT NOW.
WELL, WHERE IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I SAW. SOME KIND OF WEIRD SUIT ON THE GUY.
WHO? THIS KID HERE?
UH, NO, ANOTHER ONE, IN THE DOZER.
GOOD QUESTION...

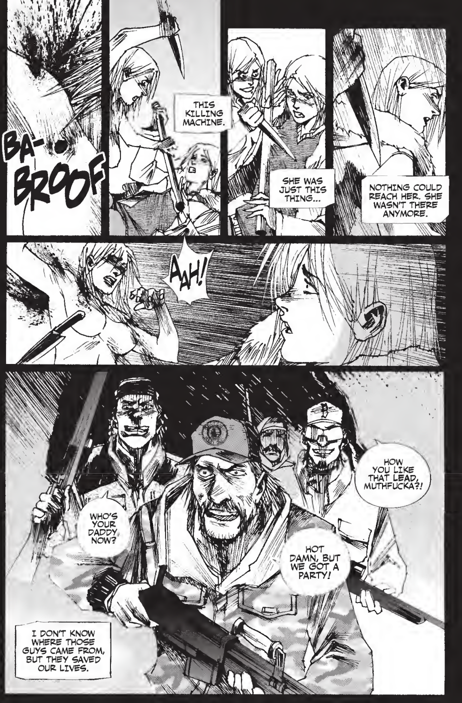

WE JUST SAVED THE WHOLE WORLD!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING, *DO YOU?*
I HAVE NO IDEA.
I THOUGHT I COULD EXPLAIN THE INEXPLICABLE TO THEM AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALRIGHT.
TELL IT TO THE JUDGE. OKAY?
OKAY, PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE DIDN'T DO THIS, WE STOPPED IT!
AND CHECK THEM FOR DRUGS. SOUNDS LIKE *THIS ONE'S* HALLUCINATING.
IF ONLY IT HAD ENDED LIKE THAT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH BETTER.
WE WERE FORGETTING THE BIGGER PICTURE...
BUT NOTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.

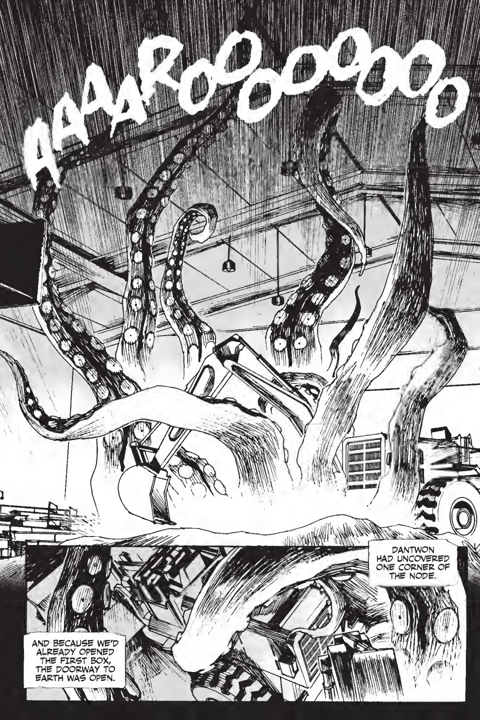

NO, NO, NO, NOOOOO--!
GOOD, GET THOSE MEDICS IN HERE. WE'VE GOT AN OFFICER DOW--
WHAT THE FUCK?!
KIND OF MYSTERIOUS.
BUT WHAT'S HE DOING WAY OVER THERE?
BZEEP
CAPTAIN, THE AREA'S SECURED.

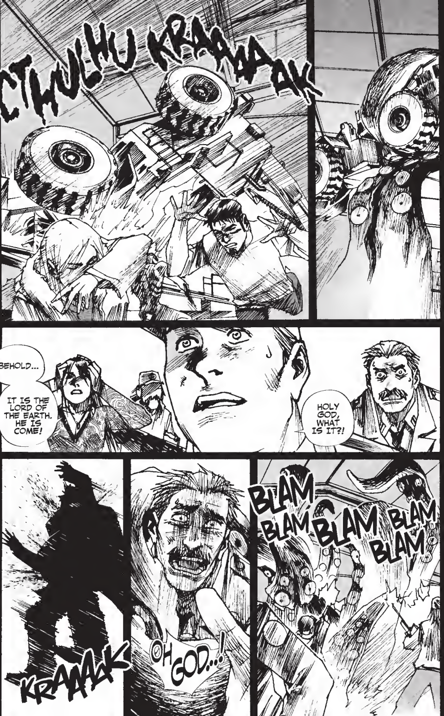

SOMEBODY, *HELP!!*
YES! *FEAST!* FEAST UPON THEM ALL!!
SLUURRUURR
WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH MY GOD...
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...?
IT WASN'T MY MOM. THIS WAS JUST A SLAVE OF CTHULHU... A THING. A MONSTER.

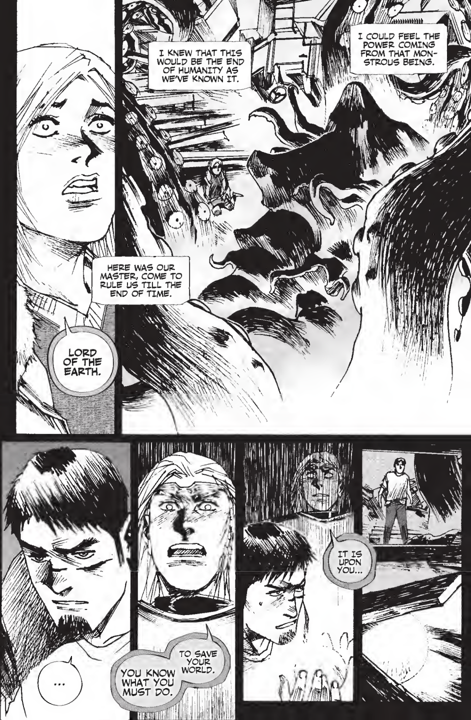

AAAAAIIIEEEE!!
WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
THEY'RE...
KLONK
UUUURGGHHH
THEY'RE NOT HUMAN!
NO SHIT, SHERLOCK.

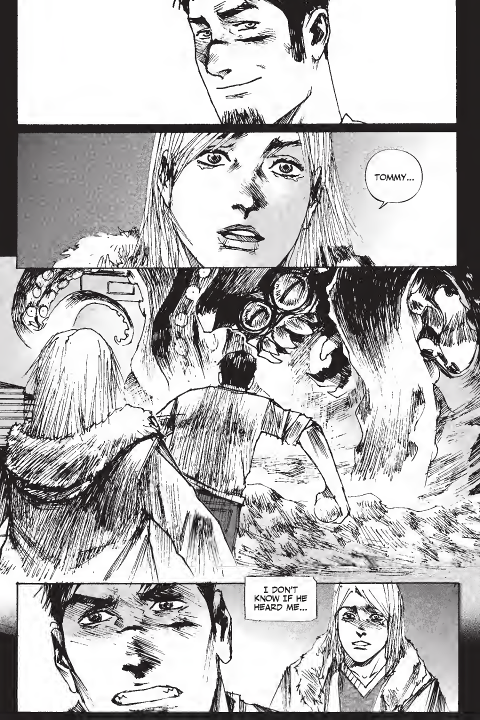

CTHULHU IS RISING!
LOOK! IT'S HIM!
NO, NO, STOP IT!
THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED ALL OF US.
THOSE THINGS WERE VERY TOUGH.
SLUURRPP

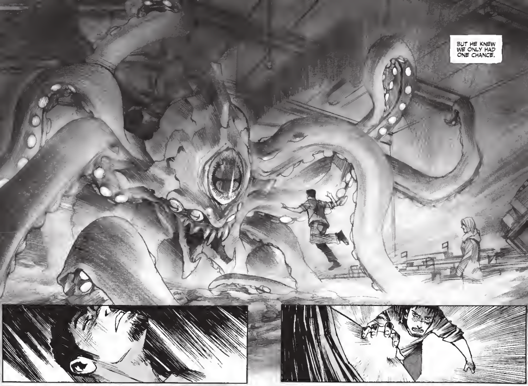

BA-BROOF
THIS KILLING MACHINE.
SHE WAS JUST THIS THING...
NOTHING COULD REACH HER. SHE WASN'T THERE ANYMORE.
AAH!
HOW YOU LIKE THAT LEAD, MUTHFUCKA?!
WHO'S YOUR DADDY NOW?
HOT DAMN, BUT WE GOT A PARTY!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THOSE GUYS CAME FROM, BUT THEY SAVED OUR LIVES.

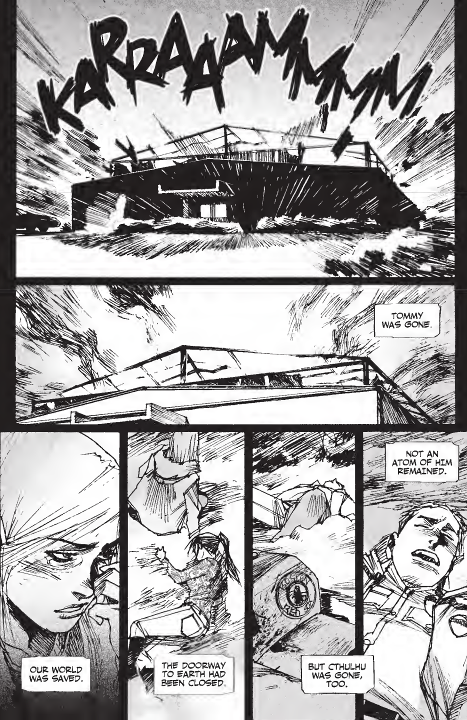

AAAAROOOOOOOOO
DANTWON HAD UNCOVERED ONE CORNER OF THE NODE.
AND BECAUSE WE'D ALREADY OPENED THE FIRST BOX, THE DOORWAY TO EARTH WAS OPEN.

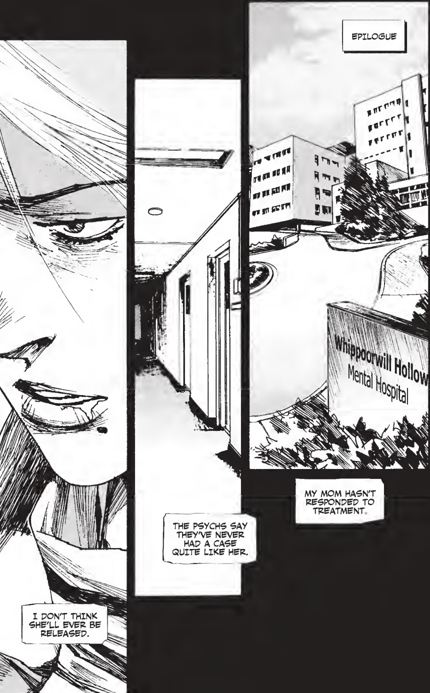

CTHULHU KRAAAAAK
BEHOLD...
IT IS THE LORD OF THE EARTH. HE IS COME!
HOLY GOD, WHAT IS IT?!
KRAAAAK
OH GOD..!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

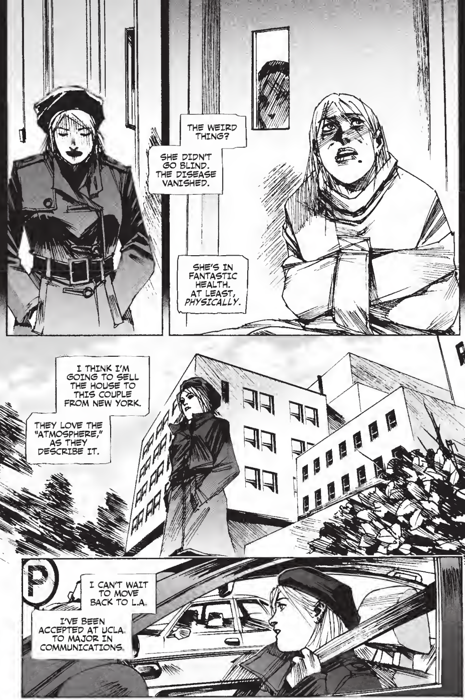

I KNEW THAT THIS WOULD BE THE END OF HUMANITY AS WE'VE KNOWN IT.
I COULD FEEL THE POWER COMING FROM THAT MONSTROUS BEING.
HERE WAS OUR MASTER, COME TO RULE US TILL THE END OF TIME.
LORD OF THE EARTH.
...
TO SAVE YOUR WORLD.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU MUST DO.
IT IS UPON YOU...

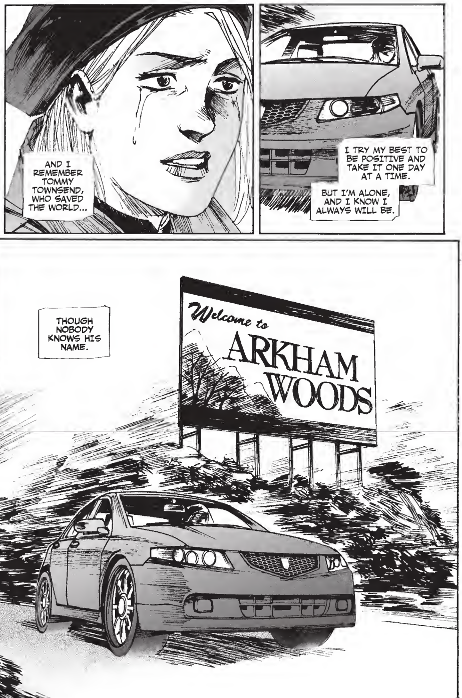

TOMMY...
I DON'T KNOW IF HE HEARD ME...


BUT HE KNEW WE ONLY HAD ONE CHANCE.

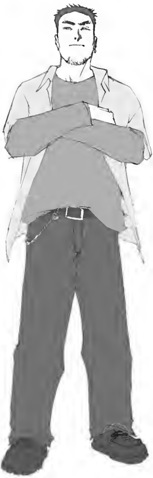

KARRAAAMMMM
TOMMY WAS GONE.
NOT AN ATOM OF HIM REMAINED.
OUR WORLD WAS SAVED.
THE DOORWAY TO EARTH HAD BEEN CLOSED.
BUT CTHULHU WAS GONE, TOO.


EPILOGUE
Whippoorwill Hollow
Mental Hospital
MY MOM HASN'T RESPONDED TO TREATMENT.
THE PSYCHS SAY THEY'VE NEVER HAD A CASE QUITE LIKE HER.
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL EVER BE RELEASED.

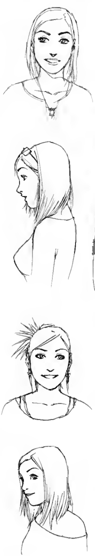

THE WEIRD THING?
SHE DIDN'T GO BLIND. THE DISEASE VANISHED.
SHE'S IN FANTASTIC HEALTH. AT LEAST, *PHYSICALLY*.
I THINK I'M GOING TO SELL THE HOUSE TO THIS COUPLE FROM NEW YORK.
THEY LOVE THE "ATMOSPHERE," AS THEY DESCRIBE IT.
P
I CAN'T WAIT TO MOVE BACK TO L.A.
I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED AT UCLA TO MAJOR IN COMMUNICATIONS.

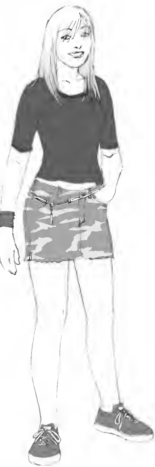

AND I REMEMBER TOMMY TOWNSEND, WHO SAVED THE WORLD...
I TRY MY BEST TO BE POSITIVE AND TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME.
BUT I'M ALONE, AND I KNOW I ALWAYS WILL BE.
THOUGH NOBODY KNOWS HIS NAME.
Welcome to
ARKHAM WOODS

ARKHAM WOODS • EARLY DESIGNS

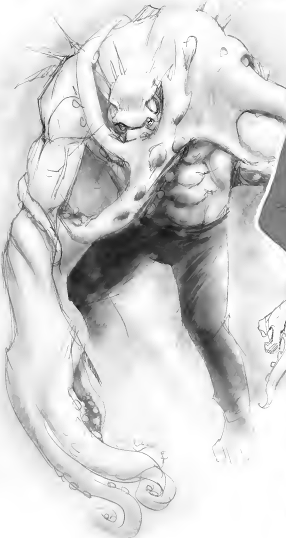


Thomas Townsend
(aka: Tommy)

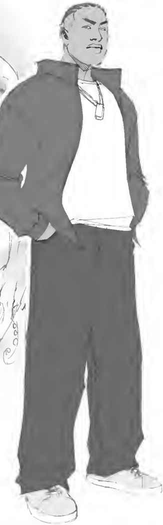




Kirsti Rivers

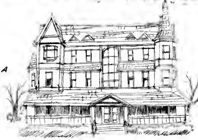


Dantwon Brooks
(Monster)

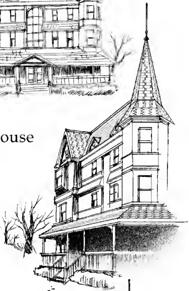


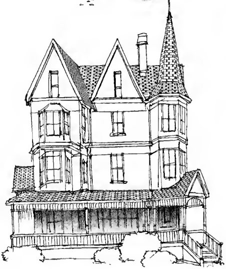
Dantwon Brooks

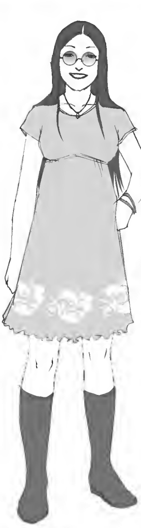
ARKHAM WOODS • EARLY DESIGNS



The House







Lin Won

ABOUT THE CREATORS

CHRISTOPHER ROWLEY

Author of nineteen Science Fiction and Fantasy novels, including *Bazil Broketail*, *The Vang: The Military Form*, *The War for Eternity*, and *Starhammer*, which has been cited as an important literary influence in the creation of *Halo* by Bungie Studios.

Rowley's first SF novel, *The War for Eternity*, was published in 1983 and won the Compton Crook Award for best first novel in the field. In 1984, his Rock Biography of Bob Dylan, *Blood on the Tracks* was published by Proteus Press 1984.

In 1985, he served as Script Editor of the cult animated series *The Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers*.

In 1992, ROC Books, Penguin USA's SF&F imprint, published a fantasy adventure tale entitled *Bazil Broketail*. This led to six further volumes in the adventures of a Dragon and his boy plus a tangential book set in the same fantasy world.

Rowley currently resides in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley. His latest Science Fiction work—*NETHERWORLD*—can be seen at www.christopherrowley.net

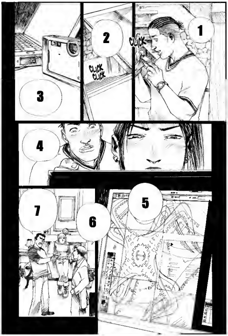
JHOMAR SORIANO

A textbook illustrator for eight years before finally turning into a professional comic book artist. Jhomar has won several character design competitions in the Philippines and abroad. He was the artist for *Mr. Grieves*, a manga by Seven Seas, for which he was awarded finalist in the 2007 First International Manga Award by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Jhomar is a happily married man of eleven years and father of three. He resides in the Philippines.

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Arkham Woods



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!